

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

October 2025

Good morning, Forest Update Subscribers,

It's October and to celebrate Halloween, I have a spooky, nay, terrifying, tale for you. Be warned and proceed only if you dare!

We recently went to New York to visit family. In the Adirondacks we noticed some vigorously blooming shrubs along the creeks. Upon further examination, we realized they were none other than one of the most noxious weeds in the WORLD – Japanese knotweed (aka the Godzilla plant). This plant causes both economic and ecological damage and has led to unsaleable real estate, [murder](#), and [revenge](#).

But the real fear, accompanied by an impending sense of doom, didn't start until the ride home. Just south of Ithaca, we drove along miles and miles of knotweed blooming in the wet areas adjacent to the creeks. It was actually a welcomed respite to see autumn olive up on the drier sites – a familiar foe at least.

The terror continued to grow as we drove through central Pennsylvania along the Susquehanna River. Even from the interstate, we could see that knotweed was everywhere. And it was 15 feet tall. I've posted knotweed photos from our trip on the [VFLEP Facebook site](#).

Learn why this nonnative invasive shrub is so scary, plus options for controlling it, from previous newsletter articles I wrote in 2020: [KnotweedPart1](#) and [KnotweedPart2](#). Just keep the lights on while reading them! Learning how to identify and control this nonnative early may help protect our landscape from this aggressive invader.

On a far less frightening note, the [Fall 2025 Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter](#) is available!

In this edition:

Natural Resource Enterprises Provide Woodland Owners with Diverse Income Opportunities

Most people are familiar with the proverb “Don't put all your eggs in one basket.” In a literal sense, if you put all your eggs in one basket and drop or misplace it, you lose all your eggs. In the context of woodlands, this can be interpreted to mean don't rely on only one source to generate income from your woods. Alas, in most cases, that is exactly what woodland owners do – we rely on income from timber production. While not all woodland owners are income-driven, most find it useful to have a reliable source of revenue from their land to pay taxes, insurance, and maintenance expenses. [Read more...](#)

You Ain't from Around Here! Nonnative Invasive of the Quarter: Asian Needle Ants

Invasive ants don't get as much attention as pests like ticks or mosquitoes that spread diseases, but the Asian needle ant (*Brachyponera chinensis*) is one you should know about. Quiet, cryptic, and increasingly common across the Eastern US, this ant can affect both the health of people and the balance of forested ecosystems. If you're a Virginia landowner, understanding this species can help you protect your land, family, and even native wildlife. [Read more...](#)

Got Grouse? Want Grouse?

RGS & AWS are committed to restoring and establishing early successional habitat for ruffed grouse and woodcock. RGS is in partnership with the George Washington/Jefferson national forest along with other public lands throughout southwest Virginia to help in the conservation efforts for grouse and woodcock. [Read more...](#)

[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](#).

- 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 proven techniques to help you plan for the future of your land.

- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - October 4
 - Farmville
 - 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 - Registration is closed
- Legacy Planning Workshop
 - November 8
 - [Hampton Roads AREC](#), Virginia Beach

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- \$40/family
- Register [by mail](#)
- Register [online](#)

Woods & Wildlife Conferences

The long-standing Blacksburg and Culpeper Conferences will be held in February.

- February 21
 - [Squires Student Center](#), Blacksburg
 - Agenda and registration in December
- February 28
 - [Daniel Technology Center](#), Germanna Community College, Culpeper
 - Agenda and registration in December

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 – registration is closed
- October 9, Wise County
- October 16, Virginia Beach
- October 17, Frederick County
- [Agendas and register by mail](#)
- Register [online](#)

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 coming soon
- Register [by mail](#)

- Register [online](#)

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

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