

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

## *February 2026*

Good morning, Forest Update Subscribers,

Hope your 2026 is off to a wonderful start. Ours here at the farm has been, well less than stellar. Right after the new year, we lost water to the house. Diagnosing and satisfactorily resolving the issue entailed, over the course of 2 weeks, replacing a fuse in an antiquated fuse box, bypassing the antiquated fuse box, replacing the well pump, and finally, installing a flow regulator on the new well pump (which is slightly more powerful than our last one and was exceeding our water recharge rate).

Then the flu struck! For the past week we have both been stuck in the house feverish and coughing.

All of this in subfreezing temperatures. Which I haven't enjoyed because of the flu.

On the bright side, my husband retired on January 1, so he didn't have to take any time off work (not the best start to retirement though).

Thankfully, life appears to be back on track. We have been busy planning our 2026 landowner education events. [Click here for our full Events Calendar](#) and check out our featured events below.

Featured Events:

### [Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)

February 27 - Biological Controls for Biological Invasions

New videos premier at 12:15 on [YouTube](#) the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month.

Watch 175+ videos on our [YouTube Channel](#).

### **John F. Hosner Distinguished Lecture - Ancient forests and the stories they tell**

The 2026 John F. Hosner Distinguished Lecture will feature David W. Stahle, Distinguished Professor of Geosciences at the University of Arkansas. This annual lecture is the College of Natural Resources and Environment's signature speaker event and reflects our shared commitment to impactful science, interdisciplinary collaboration, and land-use management.

- February 12
- 4:00-4:55pm - Reception
- 5:00-6:00pm - Lecture and Questions
- Free
- Assembly Hall, [Holtzman Alumni Center, Virginia Tech](#)

## Woods & Wildlife Conferences

These long-running full-day conferences provide information, tools, and personal contacts to help private woodland owners keep their woods, and the wildlife that live in them, healthy and productive.

A variety of topics are offered to appeal to owners of both small and large tracts, and both new and experienced owners. \$55/person; \$100/couple includes lunch.

- February 21
  - [Squires Student Center](#), Blacksburg
  - [Agenda](#)
  - [Register by mail](#)
- February 28
  - [Daniel Technology Center](#), Germanna Community College, Culpeper.
  - [Agenda](#)
  - [Register by mail](#)
- [Register online](#)

## Landowner Retreats

Beginning Retreats provide information on hardwood and pine forest management, legacy planning, management planning, and more. Beyond the Basics Retreats take a deep dive into a specific forest management topic. All Retreats combine classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities. Registration opens 10 weeks prior to events.

- Beyond the Basics Woodland Owner Retreat: Managing Your Forest for Timber Income
  - March 13-14
  - [Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center](#), Appomattox
  - [Agenda](#)
  - [Register by mail](#)
  - [Register online](#)
- Southwest Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - May 8-9
  - [Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center](#), Abingdon
- Southeast Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - September 11-12
  - [New Kent Conference Center](#), Providence Forge

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

Hope to see you!

Jennifer

Visit us online



### 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](#)
- [USDA Forest Service](#)

Jennifer Gagnon \* 228 Cheatham Hall \* Blacksburg, VA 24061

[jgagnon@vt.edu](mailto:jgagnon@vt.edu) \* 540/231-6391

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](mailto:forestupdate-g+unsubscribe@vt.edu)

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit [ext.vt.edu/accessibility](http://ext.vt.edu/accessibility).