

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

January 2026

Good morning, Forest Update Subscribers,

Happy new year to all!

2026 brings with it a couple of HUGE Landowner Education Program milestones. First, as mentioned in the December e-Update, forty years ago, the Virginia Forest Landowner Update Newsletter started as a 4-page typed publication called "Extension Forestry Notes". Each month this year I'll be posting those earlier editions on the [VFLEP Facebook page](#).

Second, 2026 is the 50th anniversary of our [Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours!](#) We will share the details over the coming months.

In the meantime, the [Winter 2026 edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter](#) is now available.

In this edition:

Planning for Success

If you own woodlands and read this newsletter, you have already taken the first step towards becoming a responsible steward by educating yourself about woodland management. But have you taken the next step and obtained a written forest management plan? If not, are you ready to? In case you are not aware of the benefits of a written management plan, here is a short list. A well-written forest management plan: [read more](#).

You Ain't From Around Here! If You Can't Beat 'em, Eat 'em!

I have been researching and teaching about invasive species for more than 25 years. Sometimes it can feel a little like the Saturday Night Live character "Debbie Downer," only ever delivering bad news. To be sure, the narrative surrounding invasive species is dire; just look at the first-ever global assessment published in 2023 by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (<https://www.ipbes.net/ias/learning>). Here is a short list of some of the newly collated impacts of invasive species: [read more](#).

Related radio story: [How Some Invasive Species Can be Transformed into Delicious Dishes](#)

Events Calendar

Featured Events:

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

December 26-January 5: The Twelve Shorts of Christmas continues!

Join Virginia Cooperative Extension's landowner education team each day of Christmas for a natural resource themed short. 12:15 PM on [YouTube](#).

Watch 165+ videos on our [YouTube Channel](#).

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. Online registration is open for both events.

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

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