

Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

March 2026

Good morning, Forest Update Subscribers,

For most of my formative years, I lived in Florida and later southwest Georgia—places where any snow at all shuts down the world. As a result, my snow-driving skills were... well, nonexistent. (I *can* drive in a torrential thunderstorm like a pro – if it is daytime.)

Almost 21 years ago, I moved to southwest Virginia. In those early years, when it snowed, I took a vacation day. Later, after I got married, I depended on my husband—who worked just down the hall—to handle the winter driving.

But this year he retired, and an unexpected side effect is that I am now responsible for driving myself in all weather conditions. Unfortunately, this winter has been especially uncooperative. For several days in early February, my entire route to work was covered in snow, and our driveway stayed iced over for two full weeks. Even with the 4-wheel-drive truck, it was treacherous.

People always say the real hazard of driving in snow is the other drivers. I've discovered the uncomfortable truth: I am the other driver. I'll admit, I briefly daydreamed about moving into town and eliminating the 40-minute commute altogether.

But now the birds are singing in the mornings, and the crocuses are pushing through the soil. Spring is coming. It's all going to be okay.

On another note, as mentioned in the January e-Update, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update newsletter, I have posted a copy of the Spring 1986 Extension Forestry Notes (the original version of the newsletter) on our [Facebook page](#). It's interesting to see how much has changed...and how much has stayed the same.

We have a full lineup of events for you this year! [Click here for our Events Calendar](#) and check out our featured events below.

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

- March 27 - Pollen
- April 24 - Catalpa
- May 22 - Fungi
- June 26 - After the Storm 2: Cleanup safely

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

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

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.

- 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

Virginia Forestry Summit

Join landowners and natural resource professionals for educational programs and networking. Plus there will be an assortment of field trips in Norfolk.

- April 29 – May 1
- [Hilton Norfolk the Main](#), Norfolk
- [Learn more](#)

Spring Venture Outdoors Series

This half-day program includes both classroom and field trip sessions. Topics will include: a forest health update, tree identification, a wild game update, and cost share opportunities.

- May 7, [Halifax County Extension Office](#), Halifax
- May 14, [Prince Edward County Extension Office](#), Farmville
- May 21, [Bedford County Extension Office](#), Bedford
- 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Free ([registration is required](#))

Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours – 50th Anniversary!

This October, come help us celebrate the longest running program of this type in Virginia! To celebrate, we will explore sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices across 4 counties over 4 days. Tours visit private, public, and industry-owned lands and manufacturing facilities. Join us for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 days. Lodging will be available.

- October 20-23

- Details coming soon!

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

Hope to see you all out and about!

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 * 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

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.