Welcome to the Virginia Forest Landowner Update! You and your family or organization are invited to learn about your role in Virginia forest stewardship by attending the events listed within these pages. These programs will provide practical information to forest landowners, natural resource professionals, youth and other interested parties on the many components of sustainable forestry.

**Update sponsors include:**
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources
- Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Forestry Association

**Private Forestry Associations Offer Many Benefits to Forest Landowners**

One of the greatest challenges faced by new and veteran forest landowners alike is obtaining timely information on natural resource management issues. While the first place to turn for assistance is often your state government agencies, e.g., the Virginia Departments of Forestry, Game and Inland Fisheries, and Cooperative Extension, private forestry associations offer many benefits to forest landowners that state agencies do not. Most notable, all forestry associations work at the state and/or federal level to seek regulatory change for the benefit of forest landowners. Forestry associations also offer resources such as magazines and annual conferences that share up-to-date information on regulatory issues, timber and estate taxes, forest products marketing and other topics. Perhaps the most important benefit of private forestry associations is their close cooperation with state and federal natural resource agencies to provide quality education programs such as field days, bus tours, conferences, and short courses for forest landowners.

The following paragraphs are self-descriptions of three major landowner associations from which Virginia forest landowners may benefit:

**Created in 1941, the Forest Landowners Association (FLA)** is a proactive, progressive, and hard-hitting grassroots organization of timberland owners - large and small - who own and operate more than 47 million acres of timberland in 17 southeastern and eastern states. With active members in every timbered county in the South, it is the only organization created for the specific purpose of speaking for southern and eastern timberland owners at local, regional, and national levels. Membership benefits include: special pricing on hunt lease liability insurance, representation in Washington D.C. for regulatory change benefiting forest landowners, sponsorship of seminars, conferences, and workshops, Forest Landowners magazine, and awarding of scholarships to outstanding forestry students.

The Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining, developing, protecting, and promoting the forests and related resources of Virginia. Its membership consists of individuals, forest landowners, foresters, loggers, forest product businesses, forestry consultants, and a variety of groups who are concerned about the future and well-being of Virginia's forest resources. Founded in 1943, VFA brings together a diverse membership that advocates both a healthy natural environment and a strong business environment for the benefit of all Virginians. Membership benefits include: representation of Virginia forestry interests before the Virginia General Assembly, U.S. Congress, and local governments, Virginia Forests magazine, News & Notes quarterly bulletin, special pricing on timberland liability insurance, sponsorship of educational activities such as Project Learning Tree and the Virginia Tree Farm Program, and provision of annual scholarships to forestry students at Virginia Tech.

**BENEFITS continues on page 5**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>event contact</th>
<th>date/location</th>
<th>event/Description (preregistration requested unless noted otherwise; TBA = to be announced)</th>
<th>time</th>
<th>fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LC</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td><strong>1999 Lake Country Conservation &amp; Water Quality Tour.</strong> Tour will showcase water quality benefits from conservation practices that also reduces soil erosion and nutrient enrichment. Topics include conservation ethic, TVA, and local initiatives, conservation programs, pond management, forestry and wildlife practices, forest, wildlife, and ag issues, and wildlife safety. Dinner provided.</td>
<td>1pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>no fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Ray</td>
<td>Dalton Farm</td>
<td><strong>Converting Rural Land.</strong> One day intensive workshops for consulting foresters, landowners, or anyone interested in conserving forestland or reducing the impact of development and fragmentation. Learn about conservation easements, land trusts, ag and forestal districts, land use assessment, comprehensive planning, and possible changes in land law. Co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Forestry Association. Class size limited. Visit the Virginia Department of Forestry at <a href="http://www.dof.virginia.gov">www.dof.virginia.gov</a>.**</td>
<td>9:45am-3:30pm</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BW            | July 27      | **Two dates and locations:**
|               | Salem, Virginia Department of Forestry Office |                                                                 | 9:30am-3:30pm | $10.00 |
| BW            | July 28      | **Two dates and locations:**
|               | Charlotteville, Virginia Department of Forestry Office |                                                                 | 9:30am-3:30pm | $10.00 |
| BF            | August 4     | **Native Warm Season Grass Workshops.** Forest landowners and natural resource professionals will learn how to establish and manage native warm season grasses on wildlife and livestock habitat. Highlights include trips to working livestock farms with native warm season grasses. Lunch provided; registration required. | 9am-3:30pm | no fee |
| BF            | August 11    | **Two dates and locations:**
|               | Todd's Tavern, Spotsylvania County |                                                                 | 9am-3:30pm | no fee |
| KP            | August 10-11 | **1999 Shenandoah Valley Environmental Education Conference.** For K-12 teachers and environmental educators. Day-one includes keynote sessions on Projects Underground, Learning Tree, and Wild-Aquatic; state and national park education opportunities, biological monitoring, mapping your watershed, locating funding for your projects, local environmental protection efforts, and streambank construction. Day two is a hands-on trip to view projects in progress. Earn recertification points. For education-relevant materials and participate in hands-on activities. | all days | no fee for teachers; $15.00 for all others |
| NCFA          | August 12-14 | **Growing Forest Products in Your Community.**
|               | Whiteville Community College | Designed to assist Virginia communities in increasing forest products industry recruitment and development. Gain information on industry resources, meet key industry contacts, and learn economic development strategies for business development. Two-day program involves forest industry representative presentations, panel discussions, and resource material sharing. Tours many sites of both primary and secondary wood products manufacturers. Course limited to 60 participants. Register online at: www.conted.vt.edu/forestry/community.htm | all day | $60.00 |
| LN            | August 25-27 | **Carolina Log'n Demo.**
|               | Blackwater Center | See the latest in logging equipment, trucks, trailers, safety equipment, cleaning equipment and supplies, radios, chain saws, custom hats and backpacks, insurance programs and much more. Equipment demonstrations on Saturday. | 2pm-7/18/13 | $20.00 |
| LN            | August 25-27 | **Beyond RAW Workshop.**
|               | Blackwater Center | Similar to the Virginia Department of Outdoor Wildlife (BOW) program. This workshop is designed to explore a specific outdoor activity over three days. This event does not guarantee an opportunity to go beyond the basics, and learn more about selected activities such as archery, hunting, deer hunting, freshwater fishing, or camping. No prior experience necessary. Visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries online at: www.dgif.state.va.us | all day | $25.00 |
| RK            | September 9  | **4th Annual Harrisonburg Urban Tree Care Workshop.**
|               | Waynesboro | Classes, lectures and hands-on demonstrations will feature practices to maintain trees from healthy to CEUs. In addition of 4th Annual Tree Care Workshops for urban forestry scholarships. More information online at: www.treevufc.com | 9:00-4pm | TBA |
| RK            | September 9  | **Reynolds Homestead Annual Forestry and Wildlife Field Day.**
|               | Crewe | Review forestry and wildlife management practices at the Reynolds Homestead. Survey forested stand improvements and recently harvested areas. Observation of land management. Road construction. Wildlife management practices discussed at all stop. Lunch provided. | 9:00-4pm | $10.00 |
For more information or to register for a specific event, refer to the “Event Contacts” information box (for example, DH = Doug Harris).
Regenerating Your Forest - Naturally

by James E. Johnson, Professor of Forestry
Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources

Probably the most important time in the life of a forest is the time during which regeneration occurs. Usually this happens following some type of disturbance in a natural forest or following cutting in a managed forest. Often, foresters will regenerate a forest artificially, that is, they will plant seedlings to be sure that they get the desired numbers and species of new trees. But in areas where hardwoods are dominant, foresters will often rely on nature to provide regeneration through natural means. Hardwood forests throughout the eastern U.S. are known for regenerating quickly following disturbance. But are foresters often satisfied with the species and numbers of quality seedlings that nature provides? Maybe or maybe not. To understand more about this important question, let’s look at the subject of forest regeneration in a little more detail.

Different species of hardwoods vary greatly in their strategies for regenerating. While all species produce seeds or nuts, some do so regularly, with heavy seed crops nearly every year. Red maple is a good example. Others produce heavy crops of seeds or nuts occasionally, perhaps once every five years or so. Oaks are an example. Some species, like sweetgum, black locust, and beech produce new stems directly off of existing root systems, while nearly all hardwoods produce sprouts from cut stumps. The number of sprouts per stump is related to the size of the stump, with most sprouts coming off stumps less than 12 inches in diameter. Some species, like yellow-poplar and black cherry, have seeds that remain viable in the forest floor for many years. These species can produce new seedlings whenever an opening is created and the light and moisture conditions are favorable for germination of the stored seeds. Seeds of some species germinate at fairly low temperatures, like sugar maple, while others, such as eastern hemlock are known to be high temperature germinators.

So regeneration occurs when the right combination of available seed coincides with the proper seedbed conditions, particularly light, temperature, and moisture. Here is where it gets interesting. For some species, like yellow-poplar and black cherry, regeneration is an event, that is, it occurs very rapidly following the disturbance. But for others, like the oaks, it is a process. The oaks take a long time to germinate and become established on the forest floor. Young oak seedlings grow very slowly in height. Rather, the oak seedlings spend most of their energy producing a large and wide-spaying root system. Fast growing species like yellow-poplar quickly overtop the slower growing oaks, depriving them of the much needed sunlight necessary for vigorous growth. Foresters know that to get adequate regeneration of desirable oaks on good quality sites, it is necessary to have many, perhaps several hundred, established oak seedlings or saplings already growing in the understory before the disturbance, or cutting, occurs. And this takes many years to occur.

Can a forester predict with a reasonable degree of certainty what species will regenerate following a harvest in a hardwood stand? The answer is yes, most of the time. Certainly smaller hardwood trees will produce sprouts and can be counted on to produce one to three trees eventually. For the first few years after cutting, an individual stump may have dozens of sprouts, but eventually they will die back to one to three. Yellow-poplar will regenerate anywhere there is a seed source in the original stand or nearby. On dry and infertile sites the yellow-poplar will regenerate, but will not grow well and eventually will die out. But on the moist and fertile sites the yellow-poplar will grow faster than any other trees and will dominate. Beeches will nearly always produce sprouts from the root systems if they are already present in the stand. Oak seedlings may or may not be a part of the new stand, even if the original stand had oak trees present.

Foresters can conduct a regeneration survey prior to cutting, to check for the presence of oaks, or other desirable species, in the stand. Likewise, this procedure can be repeated several years following a cut, although it is often a difficult task. But the regeneration survey is the only real way to determine the species and numbers of seedlings and sprouts that are coming back. If desired species are not present, the forester may recommend an enrichment planting. This practice involves planting a small number of the desired tree seedlings to enrich the seedling pool provided by nature. This is expensive, so small numbers of seedlings are usually planted. It is often desirable to use tree shelters with these planted seedlings, to give them the very best opportunity to compete with the natural vegetation surrounding them.

Understanding how nature regenerates a forest naturally is an important first step to managing a new hardwood forest. Many other factors, like insect and disease problems, floods and drought, browsing by deer and farm animals, and fire all play a role in forest regeneration. Knowledgeable foresters and forest landowners can work with nature to get the most desirable species in the new forest.
**COST SHARE UPDATE**

**REFORESTATION OF TIMBERLANDS (RT)**

**Primary Goal:** To provide financial assistance to landowners for pine reforestation and management practices.

**Contact Agency:** Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

**Where Applicable:** Statewide

**Program Description & Requirements:** Provides 40% cost-share for reforestation of pine forests, not to exceed $75 per acre. Signup is continuous. Cost-shared practices must be maintained for 10 years. This program is funded by the forest industry in Virginia with matching funds from the Virginia general fund.

Cost-shares all types of site preparation, planting of pine species, installation of best management practices within the boundary of the project, fencing to restrict grazing on the project, herbicide release of pine plantations, and pre-commercial thinning of 4-6 year old over stocked pine stands.

**FORESTRY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (FIP)**

**Primary Goal:** To increase the nation’s supply of timber products.

**Contact Agencies:** Natural Resources Cons. Service (NRCS) Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

**Where Applicable:** Statewide

**Program Description & Requirements:** A voluntary cooperative program with landowners to encourage the development, management, and protection of non-industrial private forest lands. Practices are directed toward the production of soft and hardwood timber.

The program provides cost-share assistance to landowners for site preparation and tree planting and improving existing stands of trees through thinning or competition control (release). Current cost-share rates are shown below. These rates are reviewed annually and adjusted if necessary. Cost-shared practices must be maintained for 10 years. VDOF is responsible for ensuring that the technical specifications of each project are met. Landowners must sign through their local NRCS office. Projects may be as small as one acre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PINE</th>
<th>rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tree planting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>light site prep. (burning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>medium site prep. (herbicide only)</td>
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<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>heavy site prep. (dozing, chop or herbicide/burn)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<tr>
<td>precommercial thinning</td>
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<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>release</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HARDWOOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tree planting</td>
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<tr>
<td>light site preperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>stand improvement</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BENEFITS from page 1**

The **National Woodland Owners Association** (NWOA) is a nationwide organization of non-industrial private woodland owners with offices in the Washington D.C. area. Membership includes landowners in all 50 states. NWOA is affiliated with state and county owner associations throughout the United States. Founded by non-industrial private woodland owners in 1983, NWOA is independent of the forest products industry and forest agencies. NWOA works with all organizations to promote non-industrial forestry and the best interests of woodland owners. In addition to representing forest landowner interests at the federal level, Membership benefits include: *National Woodlands* magazine, the *Woodland Report* with late-breaking news from Washington D.C. and state capitals, and a free introductory visit from a certified professional forester (available in most states).

Make your voice heard, consider membership in a forestry association!

**Understanding Forest Certification: Handbook and Workshop Offered to Landowners and Resource Managers**

In recent years, “green certification” has gained attention as a means of promoting sustainable forestry practices and marketing wood products produced from sustainably managed forests. Certification is a non-regulatory means of ensuring that the methods and materials used to make a product meet predetermined social, economic, and environmental standards.

In the case of forest products, green certification seeks to ensure consumers that the wood used to make a forest product, e.g., lumber and paper, was grown, managed, and harvested using sustainable practices. At a minimum, these practices include adhering to state and federal environmental regulations and employing forestry best management practices. Certifying agencies may also require the use of management practices that enhance biodiversity, preserve sites of significant cultural value, and promote the ecological and economic stability of local communities.

Numerous independent non-government organizations are creating, or have completed, forest certification standards. To help sort through the issues surrounding forest certification, the Forest Management Trust has developed a regional handbook on forest certification for landowners and resource managers. The Trust is a non-profit, non-government organization based in Gainesville, Florida that promotes forest management for financial returns while maintaining forest ecosystem functions. The Trust promotes voluntary, third-party forest certification as a way to encourage and reward good forest management. The Southeastern US Forest Certification Handbook contains information on: the certification process; the market for certified products; the costs and benefits of certification; minimizing the costs of certification; case studies on certification operations; descriptions of national, state, and regional certification and stewardship programs; and contact lists for regional and state sources of information on forest management. In addition, a free one-day workshop entitled Forest Certification: What You Should Know About this New Marketing Opportunity will be conducted at Virginia Tech later this fall (see Events Calendar for course details).

For a free copy of the handbook or for more information on upcoming certification workshops, contact Shoana Humphries, The Forest Management Trust, 6124 SW 30th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32608; phone: 352/331-2007; fax: 352/331-3284; email: sh@foresttrust.org.

For the most complete information on cost-share programs, visit the Virginia Department of Forestry Cost-Share web page at: [www.dof.state.va.us/matrix1.htm](http://www.dof.state.va.us/matrix1.htm)
Looking for forest management supplies? Try these sources:

**Bailey’s (SE Division)**
www.baileys-online.com
P.O. Box 9088
Jackson, TN 38314
phone: 800/322-4539
fax: 901/422-6118
email: baileys@baileys-online.com

**Construction Safety Products**
www.cspforestry.com
359 Mt. Zion Rd.
Shreveport, LA 71106
phone: 800/592-6940
fax: 318/688-6487

**General Supply Corporation**
P.O. Box 9347
Jackson, MS 39286
phone: 800/647-6450
fax: 800-553-2457

**Treessenstials Company**
www.treessentials.com
2371 Waters Dr.
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
phone: 800/248-8239
fax: 651/681-1951

**Ben Meadows Company**
www.benmeadows.com
3589 Broad St.
Atlanta, GA 30341
phone: 800/241-6401
fax: 800/628-2068
email: quote@benmeadows.com

**Forestry Suppliers, Inc.**
www.forestry-suppliers.com
P.O. Box 8397
Jackson, MS 39286
phone: 800/647-5368
fax: 800/543-4203
email: fsi@forestry-suppliers.com

**TerraTech, Inc.**
www.terratech.net
P.O. Box 5547
Eugene, OR 97405
phone: 800/321-1037
fax: 800/933-4569
email: dbaterrat@aol.com

**Ben Meadows Company**
www.benmeadows.com
3589 Broad St.
Atlanta, GA 30341
phone: 800/241-6401
fax: 800/628-2068
email: quote@benmeadows.com

**Virginia Department of Forestry**
P.O. Box 3758
Charlottesville, VA 22903-0758
804/977-6555
www.dof.state.va.us

**Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources & Virginia Cooperative Extension**
324 Cheatham Hall (0324)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
540/231-5481
www.fw.vt.edu (or) www.ext.vt.edu

**Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries**
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
804/367-1000
www.dgif.state.va.us

**Virginia Forestry Association**
8810-B Patterson Ave.
Richmond, VA 23229-6322
804/741-0836

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