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VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

Events, news, and information promoting the stewardship of Virginia's forest resources.

LANDOWNER PROGRAM

Editor

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INSIDE

1
Forestry Equipment for the Changing Forest: Servicing Smaller Forest Parcels Effectively

2
Events Calendar

3
You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Japanese Honeysuckle

4
The Bus Tours are Coming! The Bus Tours are Coming!

6
New Website

Forestry Equipment for the Changing Forest: Servicing Smaller Forest Parcels Effectively

by: **David Richert**, *RC&D Forester, Virginia Department of Forestry*

In order to promote the management of small forest parcels, the Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the New River-Highlands RC&D Council have teamed up to hold a equipment demonstration at the Matthews State Forest in Galax. On September 12, 2008, a series of live, in-woods demonstrations will show how, even on small forest parcels, an evolving suite of forestry equipment can be used for timber harvesting, improving timber stands, clearing brush, invasive species and/or slash, as well as for processing forest products on-site.

The equipment demonstration is in response to the parcelization and fragmentation that occurs as forest land throughout Virginia is increasingly being divided into smaller tracts and sold off to multiple owners. This parcelization and fragmentation has created a patchwork of smaller forest tracts and a host of economic and physical challenges for conventional forest management equipment operators. Consider a Warren County forest landowner who needed to thin five acres of backyard pine forest to reduce the risk of wildfire and improve aesthetics. Unfortunately, his residential setting was not conducive to having large scale logging equipment coming in to do the job.

As forest parcels decrease in size, forest management equipment is evolving to become smaller and more readily transportable. It may be capable of meeting different social acceptability thresholds required when operating in or around residential settings. It may be capable of further reducing soil disturbance and residual timber stand damage. Additionally, it may provide an opportunity to manage forests in the growing wildland-urban interface against a backdrop of higher fuel prices and a scarce supply of labor.

Despite the manufacture of specialized forest management equipment, few forest service providers or forest landowners have seen this equipment in action or are aware of its existence. Others may be unwilling to invest without first taking it for a 'test-drive.' The September 12 workshop will be an opportunity to see this specialized forest management equipment in action. Several vendors have agreed to provide equipment, including small-scale skidders, forestry-modified skid-steers, forestry specific skid-steer attachments, and small-scale forwarding trailers for the event. If you are a forest landowner or forest service provider interested in attending this event, please contact David Richert at david.richert@dof.virginia.gov or call him at 276.228.2879.



Photo by: Harry Groot, Blue Ridge Forest Cooperative.

The Virginia Department of Forestry protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. Headquartered in Charlottesville, there are Forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide service to citizens of the Commonwealth. VDOF is an equal opportunity provider. With nearly 16 million acres of forest land and more than 183,000 Virginians employed in the forest products industry, Virginia forests provide more than \$29 Billion annually in benefits to the Commonwealth.

Events Calendar			For the most complete listing of natural resource education events, visit the on-line events calendar at www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate		
Contact	Date	Location	Event	Time	Fee
DCR	Aug., Sept., Oct.	Virginia State Parks	A variety of events and activities. For a complete listing visit: www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks	Varies	Varies
PV	Aug. 20	Petersburg	Woodland Options for Landowners Learn how to manage your forest for a variety of uses	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	\$10 - inc. lunch
JM	Aug. 22-24	Appomattox	Mother Daughter Outdoors	Fri. - Sun.	\$90
AHP	Aug. 23	Warm Spring Mtn. Preserve	Alleghany Highlands Program: Flag Rock Natural History Hike *please pre-register*	1:00 p.m.	Free
FT	Aug. 28	Radford	Wildwood Park Outdoor Classroom Series: A River, Its Fish and People - Tales of Virginia's New River	7:30 p.m.	Free
CG	Sept. 4	Abingdon	Virginia Woody Biomass Symposium - Rural Track Learn about using woody biomass for energy.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	\$25 - inc. lunch
DR	Sept. 12	Galax	Forestry Equipment for the Changing Forest Demos of small-scale equipment for forest management.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Free
JF	Sept. 18	Farmville	Wood to Energy Seminar	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	\$10.00
AD	Sept. 18	Reston	NoVA Regional Urban Forestry Roundtable *please pre-register*	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$5 - inc. lunch
ESVA	Sept. 19-21	Cape Charles	Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival	Thurs. - Sun.	Varies
AHP	Sept. 20	Warm Springs Mtn. Preserve	Alleghany Highlands Program: Birding Hike *please pre-register*	7:30 a.m.	Free
CD	Sept. 20	Harrisonburg	Fly Fishing Workshop *please pre-register*	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	\$25
JF	Sept. 25	South Boston	Wood to Energy Seminar	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	\$10.00
CG	Sept. 29	Petersburg	Virginia Woody Biomass Symposium - Urban Track Learn about using woody biomass for energy.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	\$25 - inc. lunch
HG	Sept. 30	Roanoke County	Sustainable and Profitable Forestry Opportunities for Landowners	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Free
BW	Oct. 2	Fort Pickett/ Nottoway County	32nd Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	\$45/person
HG	Oct. 6	Newport	Sustainable Forestry and Land Conservation Opportunities for Landowners	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Free
CS	Oct. 10	Montgomery/ Giles Counties	32nd Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	\$45/person
VC	Oct. 15	Rockbridge County	32nd Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	\$45/person
CD	Oct. 18	Bear Creek Lake	Fly Fishing Workshop *please pre-register*	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	\$15
AHP	Oct. 18	Warm Springs Mtn. Preserve	Alleghany Highlands Program: Fall Colors Hike *please pre-register*	1:00 p.m.	Free

You Ain't From Around Here! Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.)
by: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech Forestry

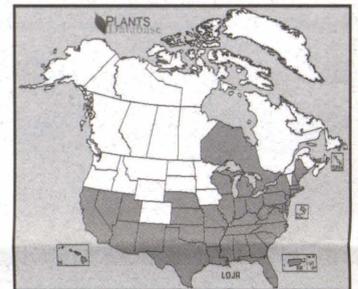
I will be featuring an invasive species in each newsletter. This section will provide resources to help you identify and control these plants, diseases and insects, hopefully before they become a problem!

Exotic invasives are non-native plants, diseases and insects that are able to thrive and spread aggressively outside their natural range. When spread is extensive, they can alter ecosystem function by replacing native species, changing forest structure, decreasing forest productivity and biodiversity. Some key characteristics include: prolific seeding or reproduction, efficient dissemination, adaptability to different environments, rapid growth, and lack of natural controls. Landowners can help stop invasives before they get out of control by 1. inspecting their property regularly, 2. maintaining a healthy forest with minimal disturbance, 3. treating invasives as soon as they are detected and 4. rehabilitating sites after eradication.

As you know, there is usually some inspiration for my choice of an exotic invasive of the quarter. This summer, my inspiration is the sickly sweet smell of Japanese honeysuckle which permeates the air in my neighborhood as Bob (the dog) and I walk on summer evenings. I can only imagine how cloying it must seem to Bob's giant Labrador nose!

There are over 180 species of honeysuckle in the world; China is home to over 100 of these species, while Europe and North America each have about 20 native species. Some native North American honeysuckle species include: yellow (*L. flava*) and trumpet (*L. sempervirens*). Yellow honeysuckle has, as you would expect, solid yellow flowers, and orange-red berries; trumpet honeysuckle has many different varieties with different colored flowers. If you see a honeysuckle in Virginia, however, it is most likely an exotic invasive.

Japanese honeysuckle (also known as white or Chinese honeysuckle) is found all across the southern United States, up into New England, and in the Great Lakes States; it has also found its way to Hawaii and Puerto Rico. It was initially introduced on Long Island. As is the case with many of our exotic invasives, this introduction was intentional. Japanese honeysuckle was used to stabilize road banks, as an ornamental, and for wildlife habitat (sound familiar?). Not too surprisingly, it is still planted in some areas for these same purposes. I found several websites which specifically market Japanese honeysuckle as a landscaping plant. It is usually sold as "Hall's Prolific" (*Lonicera japonica* var. *Halliana*).



Range of Japanese honeysuckle.

Japanese honeysuckle is found throughout Virginia, although it is most common in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Like many invasive species, it thrives in disturbed areas with full sunlight. It can, however, survive under low light conditions and will respond with rapid growth to any increases in light levels. Japanese honeysuckle is listed as a noxious weed in Virginia.

Identification:

- form:** semi-evergreen or evergreen trailing or climbing vine which can climb up to 40 feet or more in trees and can trail up to 80 feet;
- stem:** slender, woody becoming stout (2 inches) in diameter; young vines are brown and hairy; turn tan and fissured as they mature; climb on other vegetation;
- leaves:** usually hairy, simple, oppositely arranged, ovate to elliptical, 3 inches long, 2 inches wide; on short petioles, leaf edges are smooth, but can be lobed when young, underside appears whitish;
- flowers:** April through August; occur in pairs, grow in the leaf axils (between stems and leaves), on short flower stalks (known as peduncles), white to yellow, very fragrant, double-tongued, opening white and fading to yellow;
- fruit:** June to March; round green berry ripening to black 0.2 inches in diameter, 2-3 seeds per berry.



Yellow to white flowers are arranged in pairs (top); hairy elliptical leaves are oppositely arranged (bottom). Photos by: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech

Uses: Japanese honeysuckle has a high medicinal value in China where it is valued for its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties; it's also used in conjunction with other plants to remove toxins and ulcers. The vine is also an effective ground cover with low to moderate wildlife values.

Control:

Non-native vines are difficult to control because they often form extremely dense mats, making herbicide application difficult. In some cases, they form mixed-species infestations with other non-native trees and shrubs, and controlling the vines actually releases the other invasives which may need to be controlled by a different herbicide. So, after treatment, be sure to monitor the site for new exotic invasive problems.

Mechanical Control:

- **cutting/mowing:** cut vines just above the ground line every two weeks to deplete nutrient reserves; will not kill root systems but twice yearly mowing can slow spread – however, vigorous resprouting may increase stem density;
- **flaming:** use a kerosene torch to wilt leaves on a bi-weekly schedule; will not kill root systems;
- **burning:** annual burning can reduce crown volume by 80% and ground cover by 35%; roots will resprout, but spread will be limited; can be used to reduce dense ground mats prior to herbicide application;
- **grubbing:** mechanical removal and destruction of entire plant, a labor intensive and locally destructive process; works best from fruiting to winter and into early spring;
- **grazing:** controlled grazing by goats; roots will resprout without continuous grazing.

Chemical Control:

- Escort (active ingredient metsulfuron) applied with a surfactant to foliage June to August (broadcast 2 oz/acre in water or spot spraying 2-4 oz per acre in water); or
- treat foliage with one of the following herbicides in water with a surfactant (July to October or warm days in early winter– glyphosate 2% solution mix, or Garlon 3A or Garlon 4 as a 3-5 % solution); or
- cut large stems just above the ground surface and treat freshly cut stem with a glyphosate herbicide or Garlon 3A as a 20% solution in water with a surfactant July – October;
- please note, glyphosate herbicides are biodegradable, but non-specific, so they will also kill adjacent vegetation. To avoid killing desirable vegetation, apply glyphosate herbicides with a spray applicator in late autumn, when honeysuckle is still biologically active, but other vegetation isn't.

Follow these control methods by planting fast growing native grasses or other native vegetation. If you have a passion for flowering vines, try some native alternatives: trumpet creeper, Virginia creeper, wild ginger and trumpet honey suckle.

Happy honeysuckle hunting!

The Bus Tours are Coming! The Bus Tours are Coming!

As has happened every fall for the past 31 years, Virginia Cooperative Extension is teaming up with partners across Virginia to host the 32nd Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours (aka the “Bus Tours”) this October. Partners include Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Forestry Association, SFI® State Implementation Committee, Forest Industry, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Resource & Conservation Development Councils, USDA Forest Service, Land Trusts, private forestry consultants, private landowners and many more.

These tours expose participants to a wide variety of forestry and wildlife management practices in different forest types on both public and private lands. Previous tour stops have included:

- Tree Farms • Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve • Sabine Hall • Potomac Supply • Columbia Forest Product's plywood plant
- Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area • Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest

Management activities demonstrated include:

- white pine planting/tipping • timber harvests • seed orchards • deer exclosures to promote oak regeneration
- Best Management Practices • trout management • exotic invasive identification and control

The tours also provide an opportunity for participants to interact with natural resource professionals in a casual atmosphere and a catered lunch. Landowners, teachers, government employees and interested citizens are all welcome! Check in and late registration begin at 8:00 a.m. Tours usually run until 4 – 5:00 p.m.



Japanese honeysuckle invading a recently harvested lot. Note our old friend autumn olive in the background. Photo by: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech.

Events Calendar			For the most complete listing of natural resource education events, visit the on-line events calendar at www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate		
Contact	Date	Location	Event	Time	Fee
NC/JF	Oct. 24-26	Holiday Lake 4-H Center	Forest Landowner's Retreat: Discovering Value in Your Forest	Friday - Sunday	\$35/person \$50/couple
HG	Oct. 28	Floyd	Sustainable and Profitable Forestry Opportunities for Landowners	7 - 9:00 p.m.	Free
HH	Oct. 16	Essex County	32nd Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	\$45/person

If you have a natural resource education event you would like listed, please submit details to forester@vt.edu:
Upcoming submission deadlines for calendar:

Edition	Events Occurring	Submission Deadline	Edition	Events Occurring	Submission Deadline
Fall 2008	Nov., Dec., Jan.	Oct. 6, 2008	Winter 2009	Feb., Mar., April	Jan. 6, 2009
Spring 2009	May, June, July	April 6, 2009	Summer 2009	Aug., Sept., Oct.	July 6, 2008

Event Contacts			
Contact	Name/Affiliation	Phone	e-mail/website
DCR	Department of Conservation & Recreation	804/786-1712	www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks
AD	Adam Downing - VCE	540/948-6881	adowning@vt.edu
CD	Chris Dunnivant - DGIF	804/367-6778	chris.dunnivant@dgif.virginia.gov
FT	Frank Taylor - Radford	540/731-9589	ftaylor@rcps.org
PV	Patrick Vincent - RC&D Council	804/732-4375	patrick.vincent@va.usda.gov
JM	Jimmy Mootz - DGIF	804/367-0656	jimmy.mootz@dgif.virginia.gov
AHP	Alleghany Highlands Program - TNC	540/839-3599	www.nature.org
CG	Christy Gabbard	540/231-7348	cgunnels@vt.edu
DR	David Richert - DOF	276/228.2879	david.richert@dof.virginia.gov
JF	Jason Fisher - VCE	434/476-2147	jasonf@vt.edu
ESVA	Eastern Shore Virginia	757/787-2460	info@esvachamber.org
HG	Harry Groot - BRFC	540/392-8081	harry@nextgenwoods.com
BW	Betty Wright	434/645-9315	bwright@vt.edu
CS	Chris Smith - VCE	540/921-3455	gsmith@vt.edu
VC	Virginia Croushorn	540/564-3080	vcrousho@vt.edu
NC	Neil Clark	757/657-6450 x 111	southeast@vt.edu
HH	Helen Heck	804/443-1118	helen.heck@va.usda.gov

Bus cont. from pg. 4

Comments from previous tours include:

"Last year's romp around looking at trees, was still one of the best days I've had for years!" 2007 Frederick County Tour participant.

"Super organization, well planned to motivate, inspire & create within us more effective knowledge & stewardship for our homes & communities." 2007 Albemarle County Tour participant.

The 2008 Series will include four tours. The series will kick off at Fort Pickett in Nottoway County on October 2. Montgomery and Giles Counties will follow on October 10th, and Rockbridge County will host a tour on October 15th. The fourth tour is planned for Essex County.

Please contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540/231-6391 or jgagnon@vt.edu or visit www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate for detailed itineraries and registration information. A limited number of scholarships are available for K-12 teachers interested in attending.

Hope to see you out in the woods this fall!

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program has been coordinating the Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour efforts for the past four years

New Website

Loyal readers will recall an article in the Spring 2008 edition of the *Virginia Forest Landowner Update* titled: "Heritage Extension in Virginia: Merging Tourism and Forestry Education in an Outdoor Setting". This program is now officially known as the Virginia LEAF (Links to Education About Forestry) Program. For those of you interested, there is now a website to accompany this program. Please visit www.cnr.vt.edu/vleaf/ for detailed information.



A stump in the Landmark old-growth forest at James Madison's Montpelier, one of the LEAF outdoor classrooms. Photo by: Jennifer Gagnon, Virginia Tech.

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Amber Johnson

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