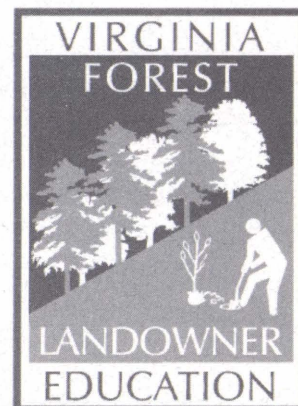


VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

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

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.



Calendar sponsors include:

- Virginia Forestry Association (VFA)
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Tech College of Forestry & Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Cooperative Extension

Riparian Issue

This edition of the Virginia Forest Landowner Update includes an article and many events concerning riparian management. See article on page 4 and events on pages 2-3 for more information. A calendar of natural resource educational events may be accessed on the internet at:

<http://www.fw.vt.edu/forestry/event.html>

HOW TO USE THE EVENTS CALENDAR

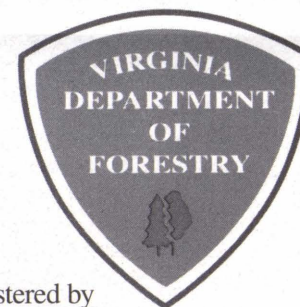
For more information or to register for a specific event, identify the event contact (whose initials are to the left of the event), by referring to the "Event Contacts" information box (for example CC = Charlie Conner, Smyth County Cooperative Extension). If your organization is sponsoring a program that would benefit forest landowners and/or natural resource professionals, please contact *Dylan Jenkins*, Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension, 228A Cheatham Hall (0324), Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 (phone: 540/ 231-6391; fax: 540/ 231-3330; e-mail: dylan@vt.edu).

Certified Prescribed Burn Managers: Control The Fire and Manage the Smoke

by Fred X. Turck, Forest Protection Coordinator
Virginia Department of Forestry

Prescribed fire has long been regarded as an indispensable forest management tool. While past educational and promotional emphasis on fire prevention (e.g., Smoky the Bear) has created a misconception that all fire is bad, many ecosystems depend on fire as do many silvicultural recommendations. Fire can be both good or bad depending on when, where, and how it occurs. With proper training and planning, prescribed burn managers will know when, where, and how to use fire to benefit Virginia's forest and wild-life resources.

The Virginia Department of Forestry proposed legislation that was recently passed by the General Assembly for the development of a training program to promote the use of prescribed burning for community protection, ecological, silvicultural and wildlife management. This program should also have a positive impact on Virginia's air quality. Chief patron of the legislation was Delegate Deeds, with Delegates Hargrove, Lands, Murphy, Ruff, Sherwood and Thomas as sponsors. The legislation passed with tremendous support from the forestry and wildlife community, various environmental groups, and both the House and Senate. The program will be known as the "Certified Prescribed Burning Manager Program."



The overall goal of the program is to improve the way prescribed burns are conducted in the Commonwealth. This voluntary training program will be administered by the Virginia Department of Forestry as a tool to aid in the development of skills needed by anyone using prescribed fire as a management tool: resource professionals, property owners, and contractors alike. To be successful, all prescribed burns must be planned to provide for the safety of burn workers, as well as that of neighboring lands. The management of smoke created by burning is also critical to safeguard the health and well being of nearby residents and communities. Our current management of smoke will determine the future availability of this valuable and indispensable resource management tool. Knowledge, skills, ability and planning are essential to accomplishing the objectives of each and every prescribed burn.

There will be two options for prescribed burning certification. Option 1 will be a three-day course developed for individuals with little or no burning experience. This course will include an in-depth study of smoke production, smoke management,

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EVENTS CALENDAR

event contact	date/location	event/description (preregistration required unless noted otherwise; TBA = to be announced)	time	fee
CG	July 8 Brunswick	Lake Country Soil and Water Conservation District Farm and Forestry Tour. Tour stops include forestry and wildlife management, pasture management for livestock, nutrient management, and tobacco research in Brunswick Co.. Refreshments and dinner included.	12:30pm-7pm	no fee
AR	July 17-18 Holiday Lake Appomattox	Aquatic Resources Rendezvous for Teachers and Resource Professionals. One-and-a-half day seminar features classroom activities, field studies, and monitoring techniques using macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects). Participants receive Aquatic WILD and SOS (Save Our Streams) curriculum guides. Lodging and meals included.	all day	\$15.00
	Two dates and locations:	Native Warm Season Grass Workshops. Learn how to establish and manage native warm season grasses for wildlife and livestock. Find out where to obtain both technical and financial assistance. Includes field trip to look at several stands of native grasses planted for different conservation reasons. Lunch will be provided.		
DF	July 22	Russell County - Lebanon High School	9am-4pm	no fee
DF	August 5	Richmond County - Heritage Park Resort Clubhouse	9am-4pm	no fee
AR	August 4-6 Wintergreen Resort	Stream Safari: Aquatic Resources, Water Quality, and Project WET. Three-day course for educators and resource professionals includes certification in Project WET, Aquatic WILD, and SOS (Save Our Streams). Classroom activities, curriculum planning, field studies, and monitoring techniques for water quality with emphasis on macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects). Extensive instructional materials provided. Lodging and meals are additional	all day each day	\$25.00 registration +\$125.00 lodging/ meals
HH	August 1 Raleigh, NC	Estate Planning for Forest Landowners. Workshop provides working knowledge of federal estate and gift taxes and timberland estate considerations. Discussion on the implications of recent tax law changes for accumulating and protecting forestry assets, and emphasize strategies for intergenerational transfer of timberland.	8am-5pm	\$95.00
KP	August 12 Broadway	Shenandoah Valley Environmental Education Conference. For K-12 teachers and community environmental educators. Choose from one- and three-hour sessions including: biological monitoring, Project Underground, Project WET, riparian restoration, using the outdoors as an educational tool, and environmental monitoring instruments.	8am-5pm	no fee for teachers \$20.00 all others
GB	August 27-28 Bristol	Partnerships for Water Quality in The Upper Holsten River. Two-day workshop for landowners and elected officials. Discuss water quality in the Upper Holsten River, recent projects to address nonpoint source pollution, pollution issues in the watershed, urban and rural conservation issues, and practical steps to protect our local resources.	10am-7pm (27th) 8am-2pm (28th)	\$25.00 both days \$15.00 one day
RK	September 10 Critz	Reynolds Homestead Annual Forestry and Wildlife Field Day. Review forestry and wildlife management projects at the Reynolds Homestead Forest. View pine/hardwood stand regeneration and recently completed logging operation including forest road construction. Wildlife management issues discussed at all stops. Lunch provided.	all day	\$10.00
AFMG	September 19 Clifton Forge	Appalachian Forest Expo. Forestry exhibits and demonstrations for the entire family. Competitions include Game of Logging state championship, woodsman competition (for all loggers), and woodkids competition. Logging equipment, pony rides, chainsaw carver, blue grass band, and food vendor. <i>No registration.</i>	9am-4pm	no fee
GW	September 26 Wilck's Lake Farmville	Heartland Forest Festival. Activities for the entire family; celebrate Virginia's forestry heritage! Food, olde time woodcrafts and demonstrations, logger competitions and prizes, children's activities, local craft vendors, blue grass music, and forestry exhibits. <i>No charge for activities; no registration.</i>	10am-3pm	no fee
HH	September 29-30 Blacksburg	Forest Finance: Basic Computer Applications and Case Analyses. Course will cover the fundamentals of discounted cash flow analyses, income approaches to valuation and capital budgeting. Includes hands-on exercises and computer demonstrations.	8am-5pm (29th) 8am-4pm (30th)	\$255.00
JW	Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Charlottesville	Riparian Forest Buffer Workshop. Two-day workshop to build natural resource professionals' knowledge and skills in designing and maintaining riparian forest buffers. Training sessions on the first day will focus on the functions and values of streams and forest buffers as well as their design and maintenance. The second day will consist of a field trip including examples and case studies.	8am-4:30pm each day	TBA

EVENTS CALENDAR

event contact	date/location	event/description <i>(preregistration required unless noted otherwise; TBA = to be announced)</i>	time	fee
HH	<i>Seven dates and locations: October (TBA)</i>	22nd Annual Fall Forestry and Wildlife Bus Tour Series. Tours of forestry, forest products firms, and wildlife management. Landowners, professional foresters, and wildlife biologists explain forestry and wildlife management practices at demonstration forests and mill sites. Lunch and refreshments provided. <i>(Exact dates, locations, and registrars will be listed in the fall Landowner Update, to be distributed in late September. All tours will be held during October at the following locations: Pittsylvania Co., Mecklenburg Co., Sussex Co., Frederick Co., Rockbridge Co., Eastern Shore, and Middle Neck).</i>	8am-5pm all locations	\$25.00 all locations
		Fall Forest Landowner Short Course Series. Three different courses offered (see below). All courses consist of four three-hour evening sessions and emphasize sound sustainable forest management practices and sources of management assistance. <i>(Exact dates, locations, and registrars for all courses will be listed in the fall Landowner Update, to be distributed in late September; TBA = to be announced).</i>		
		Introduction to Woodland Management:		
CC (TBA)	Sept. 24 - Oct. 15 October (TBA)	<i>Abingdon - sponsored by the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee</i> <i>Alleghany/Bath County Area</i>	TBA TBA	\$35.00 \$35.00
TC (TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Catawba</i> <i>Augusta County</i>	TBA TBA	\$35.00 \$35.00
(TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Patrick Henry County - sponsored by the Patrick Henry Forest Landowner Education Committee</i>	TBA	\$35.00
CS (TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Suffolk County - sponsored by the Southeast Chapter Society of American Foresters</i>	TBA	\$35.00
(TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Culpeper/Louisa Area - sponsored by the Rappahannock Forest Landowner Educ. Committee</i>	TBA	\$35.00
(TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Buckingham County - sponsored by the Old Dominion RC&D</i>	TBA	\$35.00
(TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Nottoway County - sponsored by the Old Dominion RC&D</i>	TBA	\$35.00
		Profitable Timber Marketing and Harvesting:		
DH	Sept. 24 - Oct. 15	<i>Riner - sponsored by the New River Valley Forest Landowner Education Committee</i>	TBA	\$35.00
JR	September (TBA)	<i>Buchanan County</i>	TBA	\$35.00
GD	Oct. 8 - Oct. 29	<i>Middletown - sponsored by the N. Shenandoah Forest Landowner Education Committee</i>	TBA	\$35.00
KB (TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Eastern Shore - sponsored by the Eastern Shore RC&D</i> <i>Culpeper/Louisa Area - sponsored by the Rappahannock Forest Landowner Educ. Committee</i>	TBA TBA	\$35.00 \$35.00
CG (TBA)	October (TBA)	<i>Brunswick County - sponsored by the Old Dominion RC&D</i> <i>Halifax County - sponsored by the Old Dominion RC&D</i>	TBA TBA	\$35.00 \$35.00
		Introduction to Wildlife Management:		
CC	Sept. 22 - Oct. 13	<i>Wytheville - sponsored by the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee</i>	TBA	\$35.00
PT	October (TBA)	<i>Warsaw - sponsored by the Tidewater RC&D Forestry Committee</i>	TBA	\$35.00
PT	October (TBA)	<i>Glenns - sponsored by the Tidewater RC&D Forestry Committee</i>	TBA	\$35.00
JR	October (TBA)	<i>Lee County - sponsored by the Southwest Virginia Forest Landowner Council</i>	TBA	\$35.00

EVENT CONTACTS

for more information or to register for a specific event, please contact:

event contact	name/affiliation	phone	fax	e-mail
AFMG	Appalachian Forest Management Group	540/862-7621		
AR	Ann Regn , Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	804/698-4442		
CC	Charlie Conner , Smyth County Cooperative Extension	540/783-5175	540/783-2151	conner@vt.edu
CG	Cynthia Gregg , Brunswick County Cooperative Extension	804/841-2151	804/848-4882	clgregg@vt.edu
CS	Cliff Slade , Suffolk County Cooperative Extension	757/925-6405	757/925-6406	ex800@vt.edu
DF	Debbie Flippo , Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries	804/598-3706	804/598-4934	dflipp@dgif.state.va.us
DH	Doug Harris , Montgomery County Cooperative Extension	540/382-5790	540/382-5729	rdharris@vt.edu
GB	Gary Boring , New River Highlands RC&D Council	540/228-2879	540/228-4367	beckerc@r6.forestry.state.va.us
GD	Gary DeOms , Frederick County Cooperative Extension	540/665-5699	540/722-9354	ex069@vt.edu
GW	Greg Winston , Virginia Department of Forestry	804/392-4159		winstong@r4.forestry.state.va.us
HH	Harry Haney , Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension	540/231-5782	540/231-3306	hhaney@vt.edu
JR	Jon Rockett , Powell River Project	540/328-0162		jrockett@vt.edu
JW	James Walters , Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension	540/231-3596	540/231-3330	jawalter@vt.edu
KB	Keith Boyd , Eastern Shore RC&D Council	757/787-2786	757/787-9534	
KP	Kary Phillips , Pure Water 2000 Forum	540/568-8793	540/568-2768	phillikb@jmu.edu
PT	Pat Tyrrell , Tidewater RC&D Council	804/443-1118	804/443-1511	pt@oasonline.com
RK	Richard Kreh , Reynolds Homestead Research Center and Forest	540/694-4135	540/694-2971	rkreh@vt.edu
TC	Thomas Covey , Montgomery County Cooperative Extension	540/382-5790	540/382-5729	covey@vt.edu

Class Will Teach Resource Professionals How to Design and Maintain Riparian Buffers

by James Walters, Forestry Extension Associate
Virginia Tech Department of Forestry and Cooperative Extension



The arrival of Europeans in America marked the beginning of an important change in North American ecosystems. Forested land was cleared to provide building materials and fuel. Agriculture and housing became the primary uses for a large portion of this newly cleared land. The most productive sites, particularly those near streams and rivers, have generally remained in agricultural use. Land along rivers and lakes has also been developed for residential and recreational areas.

Land development has resulted in a general decline in the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Storm water runoff from urban areas and agricultural runoff from rural areas often contain chemicals, nutrients, and sediments. This runoff, known as non-point source pollution, has been identified as a major cause of declining water quality in the Bay. The Clean Water Act and similar legislation have sparked the creation of programs to reduce pollution of the Chesapeake Bay.

Riparian forest buffers are recognized as an effective means of reducing non-point source pollution. Buffers trap and filter sediments, nutrients, and chemicals from runoff. Groundwater levels are replenished when water is absorbed into the soils of forested buffers. The growth rate of vegetation in a forest buffer is increased as plants utilize the higher levels of nutrients on the site. Furthermore, erosion is reduced when stream banks are covered with vegetation that slows water flow and stabilizes the soil.

Forest buffers can provide substantial improvements in fish and wildlife habitat. Buffers serve as travel corridors and cover for many species of birds and wildlife. Reduced temperature fluctuations and reduced stream velocity improve the ability of a stream to hold various species of fish. Forest buffers also increase the biological diversity of plant and animal species in riparian areas.

There are several direct monetary benefits to landowners who develop riparian forest buffers. Fishing and hunting permits may be sold due to better habitat on the property. Some landowners may experience higher crop yields due to the increased availability of nutrients and deeper soils.

Fertilization costs are reduced because more nutrients are held on the site. Finally, trees growing in riparian forest buffers may be periodically harvested to provide income.

Federal and state government agencies have developed several incentive-based programs to promote the establishment of riparian forest buffers. These programs are usually designed to reimburse landowners for a portion of the costs associated with forest buffers. Agencies within the USDA are generally responsible for administering federal programs. The Natural Resources Conservation Service maintains cost share programs such as the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). The Farm Services Agency directs the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Examples of

state incentives include the state Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) and the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program.

"Riparian forest buffers are recognized as an effective means of reducing non-point source pollution."

A training program on riparian forest buffers will be conducted in Charlottesville on September 30 and October 1, 1998. This

workshop is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of natural resource professionals, including field professionals, foresters, conservation districts, extension personnel, NRCS personnel, and others. Training sessions on the first day will focus on the functions and values of streams and buffers as well as their design and maintenance. The second day of the workshop will consist of a field trip that includes several case studies.

Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension offers several publications for landowners that cover the basic principles associated with riparian forest buffers. The Virginia Forest Landowner Education program also addresses issues in riparian forestry in workshops. For information about the Riparian Forest Buffer Workshop, the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program, and extension publications contact James Walters at Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension; phone: 540/ 231-3596, fax: 540/231-3330, e-mail: jawalter@vt.edu.

See page 2 for more information on the Riparian Forest Buffer workshop.

Submission Deadlines for Education Events

To advertise your organization's natural resource education event in the *Virginia Forest Landowner Update*, please submit events by the following dates:

Issue:	Submit By:
Fall '98 (Oct. - Dec.)	Sept. 2, 1998
Winter '98/'99 (Jan. - March)	Dec. 7, 1998
Spring '99 (April - June)	March 8, 1999
Summer '99 (July - August)	May 7, 1999

VDOF Website Holds Wealth of Management Information for Forest Landowners

<http://www.state.va.us/~dof/dof.htm>

Are you looking for up-to-date information on cost-share assistance programs, prescribed burning, or tree seedling ordering information? Look no further than the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) website. In addition to containing the state's sole listing of current cost-share program information, the website also holds an extensive archive of forest management articles including forest fire protection, insect and disease control, tree seedling care and ordering, urban tree care, and water quality. This site is an excellent resource of forestry information for students and teachers.

The site's index is an easy way to quickly identify the information you are looking for. If your management question isn't answered by articles within the site, then you may find what you need by using the exhaustive list of links to other federal, state, and private natural resource agencies and organizations. The VDOF website is updated frequently and worth visiting often.

For more information about the VDOF website, contact webmaster *James Starr* at 804/977-1375 ext. 3344, or email: starrj@hq.forestry.state.va.us

Forest Landowner Short Course Series will be Conducted at Twenty Virginia Locations this Fall

Forest and wildlife management short courses will be conducted at twenty locations throughout Virginia this fall. Three different courses will be offered: *Introduction to Woodland Management*, *Profitable Timber Marketing and Harvesting*, and *Introduction to Wildlife Management*. The forest landowner short course series is designed to provide practical information on forest management planning, sources of management assistance, and sustainable forestry practices. All courses consist of four three-hour evening sessions and include a comprehensive notebook containing numerous articles and bulletins on forest and wildlife management. In conjunction with the short course series, forestry and wildlife bus tours will be held at seven Virginia locations during October. A finalized listing of course and bus tour dates will be listed in the fall *Landowner Update*.

The short course series is administered by the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program, a cooperative effort by Virginia's many state and private natural agencies to promote educational opportunities for the state's 300,000+ non-industrial private forest landowners. To date, 14 courses have been conducted throughout Virginia. Over 300 landowners representing 55,000 acres of non-industrial private forest land have completed either the *Introduction to Woodland Management* or *Profitable Timber Marketing and Harvesting* courses.

Introduction to Woodland Management provides a broad overview of forest and wildlife management practices and is designed for landowners with little or no previous management experience. Course topics include establishing management objectives, assessing your resources, management planning, pine and hardwood management, and wildlife management concepts. *Profitable Timber Marketing and Harvesting* focuses on the timber sale process in the context of sound forest stewardship. Topics include sources of professional assistance, timber sale contract terms, best management practices to protect water quality, and timber tax considerations. The most recent addition to the short course series, *Introduction to Wildlife Management*, provides an in-depth review of forest, field, and water management practices designed to benefit game and non-game wildlife species.

A complete listing of fall forestry and wildlife short courses and bus tours may be found on page 3

A major challenge in promoting the forest stewardship message is reaching the state's large population of absentee forest landowners. Many definitions exist, but an absentee landowner is often defined as having their primary residence 50 or more miles from their forested tract. To reach absentee landowners, the short course series will be tailored for and conducted in Virginia's urban crescent, including northern Virginia, Richmond, and Virginia Beach. Plans are to conduct at least one course in each of Virginia's metropolitan areas during the spring of 1999.

For more information on the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program, forest landowner short course series, or the forestry and wildlife bus tour series, contact Dylan Jenkins at 540/231-6391, email: dylan@vt.edu.

FIRE from page 1

firing techniques, safety, and fire behavior. Under Option 1, certification will be issued after successfully completing the course and obtaining prescribed burning experience under the direction of a certified prescribed burn manager. Option 2 will be a one-day course designed for individuals with previous prescribed burning experience. This option will be appropriate for individuals who have planned, organized, and conducted prescribed burns and have attended agency-specific prescribed fire training. The one-day course will consist of a review of fire behavior, tactics and safety, and a more in-depth study of smoke management. To obtain prescribed burn manager certification, participants of both the one- and three-day courses will be required to successfully complete a comprehensive exam. This exam will be identical for both options and will test each participant's knowledge of all aspects associated with using fire as a forest management tool.

The Virginia Department of Forestry plans to conduct a minimum of two three-day courses before the end of 1998, and then to offer a series of one- and three-day courses across the state in 1999. If you have any questions regarding the certification program or the use of prescribed fire as a forest management tool, please contact the Forest Protection Team of the Virginia Department of Forestry at (804) 977-6555 or contact Fred Turck at (804) 834-2300; e-mail: turckf@r1.forestry.state.va.us

*Selection vs. Selective Cutting: Do You Know the Difference?**

by Shelby E. Chunko,
Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program

* (reprinted with permission from PA Forest Stewardship Quarterly)

As with most professional jargon, the terminology of forestry can be confusing to people outside the profession. It is easy to assume that *selection cutting* and *selective cutting* are the same thing. They definitely are not.....

Selection cutting removes trees from every age and diameter class represented in the stand. A selection cut might be thought of as a representative sample of the trees growing in a stand. Selection cutting is an environmentally sound way to thin a woodlot.

Selective cutting is also known as diameter-limit cutting or high-grading. All trees above a certain diameter (often 12 inches) are removed. Selective cutting leaves a residual stand of inferior trees, which contributes to the degradation of the future forest. No matter what you call it, selective cutting is a major threat to the future health and productivity of Virginia forests.

Return Service Requested

Virginia Cooperative Extension
College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources (0324)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

SUMMER 1998

VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

