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# VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

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

## VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Jennifer L. Gagnon, Editor

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Virginia Forest Landowner Update is published four times per year (January, April, July, and October) by the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program. Circulation 22,000.

Subscriptions are free of charge to citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and non-resident Virginia forest landowners. Subscriptions to other non-Virginia residents at the discretion of the publisher.

Printing and distribution cost is approx. \$1/subscription per year.

## INSIDE

1  
**Critical Habitats Workshop to be Held in New River Valley**

Introducing Two New Forestry and Natural Resource Agents; Farewell to Another

2  
**Events Calendar**

3  
**You Ain't From Around Here: Exotic Invasive of the Quarter: Multiflora Rose**

Riparian Forest Buffer Protection for Waterways Tax Credit is Available

4  
**Holiday Lake Forestry Camp Turns 60**

Landowners Benefit by Joining the Virginia Forestry Association

A Word from the Virginia Tree Farm Committee

5  
**Resource Review: Visual Guide to Timber Harvesting**

6  
**The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program Presents: Web-Based Woodland Options for Landowners Short Course**



## Critical Habitats Workshop to be Held in New River Valley

By: David Richert, *Virginia Dept. of Forestry*

An article in the last issue of Forest Landowner Update ("Natural Areas Stewardship on Private Forest Land") raised the possibility that critical habitats on private forest land deserve special attention. If landowners are interested in conserving these critical habitats, they need to know what these critical habitats look like, and how to identify them. Once identified, other questions remain. How does one evaluate the condition of these critical habitats? What actions (if any) are needed to maintain or restore these critical habitats?

Maintenance of these critical habitats may require little additional input of time or energy. On some sites, simply continuing the current management strategies and allowing natural processes to continue may be enough to conserve the critical habitat. In other cases, however, these critical habitats may need deliberate and intensive management actions to restore natural processes. These actions include invasive species control, assisting with the regeneration of native plant species, reducing deer herbivory, or prescribed burning. Natural areas management prescriptions can be site-specific, complex, and adaptive - restoring some critical habitats can require creativity and determination.

Landowners who are interested in the possibility of natural areas management should attend a critical habitats workshop in Galax, VA on April 20, 2006, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. This free workshop will showcase several critical habitats in the New River Valley, with an emphasis on stimulating interest among landowners and natural resource professionals who advise landowners. The field trip component of the workshop will highlight management efforts on private and public land: invasive species control, prescribed burning, and reducing deer herbivory. The slideshow component will be a virtual tour of other critical habitats in the New River Valley. There will be ample opportunity for participants to discuss innovative conservation strategies for these critical habitats.

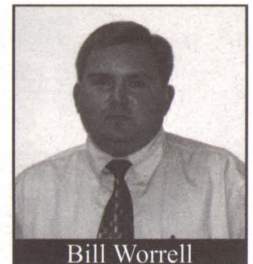
This critical habitats workshop is organized by the New River Roundtable Forestry Committee, a group committed to conserving water quality, wildlife habitat, and biological diversity in the New River Valley. Participating agencies include the New River SWCD, the New River Highlands RC&D, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Please contact Tim Phipps (276) 236-7191 or timhipps@psknet.com if interested in attending.

David Richert is the area forester for Tazewell, Bland, and Buchanan counties (David.Richert@virginia.gov)

## Introducing Two New Forestry and Natural Resource Extension Agents; Farewell to Another

By: Jennifer Gagnon, *Virginia Tech Dept. of Forestry*

We are happy to welcome two new Forestry and Natural Resource Extension Agents: Bill Worrell and Matt Yancey. Worrell will be replacing Jim Willis in the SW District, serving Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe counties. Prior to joining the SW District Extension Office, Worrell served the state as a forester with the Virginia Department of Forestry and the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council. He also has experience working with procurement and logging operations. Worrell earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and Wildlife at Virginia Tech.



Bill Worrell

Yancey will be taking the recently created NW District Position, serving Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Clarke, Craig, Frederick, Highland, Page, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties. Yancey is originally from Elkton, VA and completed both his Bachelor of Science (Forest Products Marketing and Management) and Master of Forestry degrees at Virginia Tech. Yancey has experience working with both wood veneer suppliers and homebuilding companies.



Matt Yancey

Dan Goerlich, the Central District Forestry and Natural Resource agent has been promoted to Central District Program Leader with Virginia Cooperative Extension. While we are sad to see Dan go, we wish him the best of luck in his new position, and thank him for all his contributions and great work.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

For the most complete listing of natural resource education events, visit the on-line events calendar at [www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate); see also [www.conted.vt.edu](http://www.conted.vt.edu)

Contact	Date	Location	Event	Time	Fee
SB	Feb. 3 Feb. 10 Feb. 17	Keysville	<b>SHARP Logger Training - Core Program</b> Sustainable Forestry Logging Safety BMPs and Harvest Planning	12:00-6:00	Free
AD	Feb. 4	Charlottesville	<b>Landowner's Woods and Wildlife Conference</b>		
BR	Feb. 9	Halifax County	<b>Small Landowners Forestry and Wildlife Field Tour</b>	9:30-3:30	Free
MK	Feb. 11	Warsaw	<b>Wildlife Options for Landowners, Short Course</b> Forest landowner Education Program short course; covers the basics of forest and wildlife management; includes a field tour, weather permitting	8:00-5:00	\$45.00 each \$55.00 couple
DGIF	March 31 -April 2	Statewide	<b>Becoming and Outdoors Woman</b> Designed for women not experienced with outdoor recreation. Courses include introduction to shotgun, rifle, archery, hunting, fly-fishing, bass fishing, boating, camping, wilderness survival, and outdoor cooking. Must be 18 years old to participate.	All day	Contact DGIF
TP	April 20	Galax	<b>Critical Habitats Workshop</b> (see story page 1)	4:00-8:00	Free
GP	April 28-30	Wintergreen Resort	<b>Virginia Forestry Association Annual Convention</b>	All Day	Contact VFA
VDOF	June 19-24	Appomattox	<b>Holiday Lake Forestry Camp</b> (see story page 4)	All Day	\$55.00

If you have a natural resource education event you would like listed, please submit details to [forester@vt.edu](mailto:forester@vt.edu)

### Upcoming Submission Deadlines for Printed Calendar

<i>Edition</i>	<i>Events Occurring...</i>	<i>Submission Deadlines</i>
Spring 2006	May, June, July	March 9, 2006
Summer 2006	Aug., Sept., Oct.	June 9, 2006
Fall 2006	Nov., Dec., Jan.	Sept. 9, 2006
Winter 2007	Feb., March, April	Dec. 3, 2006

## EVENT CONTACTS

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

Contact	Name/Affiliation	Phone	e-mail/Website
SB	Scott Barrett, Extension Associate, Coordinator SHARP Logger's Program	(540)231-6494	sbarrett@vt.edu
AD	Adam Downing, Extension Agent, Forestry & Natural Resources, VCE	(540)948-6881	adowning@vt.edu
BR	Berran Rogers, Field Coordinator, Small Farmer Outreach Program, VSU	(804)524-6964	brogers@vsu.edu
MK	Margaret Kennedy, Tappahannock RC&D	(804)367-1000	Margaret.Kennedy@va.usda.gov
DGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	(804)443-1118	www.dgif.virginia.gov
TP	Tim Phipps, Conservation Specialist, New River Soil & Water Conservation District	(276)236-7191	tphipp@psknet.com
GP	Glenda Parrish, Programs Director, Virginia Forestry Association	(804)278-8733	gparrish@verizon.net
VDOF	Virginia Department of Forestry	(434)977-6555	www.dof.virginia.gov

## You Ain't From Around Here: Exotic Invasive of the Quarter

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora* Thunb. ex Murr.)

By: Jennifer Gagnon, *Virginia Tech Dept. of Forestry*

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

Exotic invasives are non-native plants 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, efficient dissemination, adaptability to different environments, rapid growth, and lack of natural controls. There are 115 exotic invasive plants in Virginia. 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.

Multiflora rose is named for the many clusters of flowers it produces. It has a vigorous root system and was introduced to the United States from Asia in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses. Later, it was widely promoted for creating living fences to constrain livestock, for wildlife cover and food, and for erosion control. Most recently, multiflora rose has been planted in highway medians to reduce headlight glare. Unfortunately, this vigorous grower, seeder (one plant can produce up to 1 million seeds per year, and those can remain viable for up to 20 years) and sprouter rapidly invades areas, creating impenetrable thickets and shading out native plants. It is commonly seen along roadsides, in pastures, and in gaps within dense forests.

A number of bird species feed on the hips (fruits) and help disseminate the seed. Multiflora rose grows well on a variety of different soil types, although growth is less vigorous on wet soils. In 1996, an estimated 45 million acres were affected by this species. It is currently found in Oregon and Washington and throughout most of the eastern US, although it is not frequent south of central Georgia, since the seeds require a period of cold to germinate. Multiflora rose occurs in all but 12 counties in Virginia and is listed as a noxious weed by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

### How you can identify multiflora rose:

**Growth:** Perennial, thorny shrub with spreading stems; medium height

**Leaves:** Alternately arranged, divided into 5-11 leaflets (compound leaves) which are oval and have toothy margins; base of each leaf stalk has a pair of stipules (leaf-like structures) with bristles along their edges (see photo)

**Flowers:** Numerous, white to pink, fragrant, in clusters, bloom in late spring

**Fruit:** Small red hips, eaten by many bird species; develop in summer, remain on plant through winter

**Twigs:** Thorny, red-green, shiny, erect and arching to sprawling

**Resembles:** Native Carolina rose, swamp rose and climbing rose, but these all have pink flowers and non-bristled stipules

### How you can control multiflora rose:


**Mechanical:** In areas with only a few plants, a shovel or hoe can be used to remove the roots – just make sure you get the entire root system because this plant will sprout. This process will need to be repeated 3-6 times a year for 2-4 years to be effective.

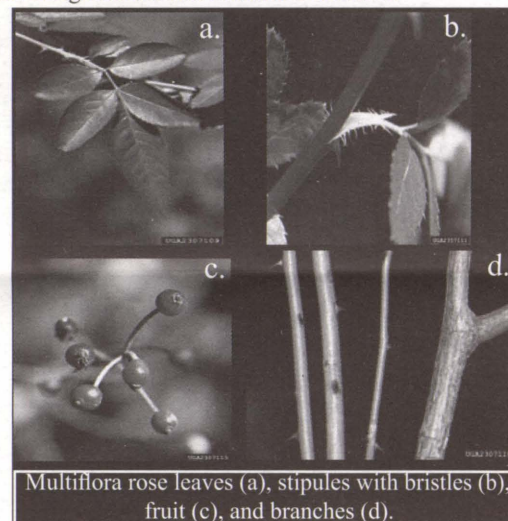
**Fire:** Prescribed fire in the early growing season can reduce multiflora rose, but may need to be repeated several times.

**Chemical:** A foliar spray applied directly to foliage; for larger shrubs, herbicide can either be injected into the stems or applied to freshly cut stumps. See Miller, 2003 for specific concentrations and application timing.

**Biological:** Although not available for landowner use, scientists have been testing two potentially effective biological controls. The first is rose rosette disease which occurs naturally in much of the range of multiflora rose, however, it's ability to also infect non-invasive ornamental roses can be a liability. The second is the multiflora rose seed Chalcid. This is a small wasp which lays eggs in the seeds. When the eggs hatch, the larvae consume the seeds.

### References and Additional Information:

1. Invasive alien plant species of Virginia. Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora* Thunberg). [www.vnps.org](http://www.vnps.org).
2. Miller, James H. 2003. Nonnative invasive plants of southern forests: a field guide for identification and control. USDA For. Serv. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-62. 93p. Free download available at: [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/5424](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/5424)
3. Plant invaders of Mid-Atlantic natural areas: Shrubs. [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/)
4. Species abstracts of highly disruptive exotic plants at Effigy mounds national Monument: *Rosa multiflora*. [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/othrdata/exotic-ab/effirosa.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/othrdata/exotic-ab/effirosa.htm)
5. Szafoni, B. Vegetation management guideline: Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora* Thunb.). [www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/mrose.html](http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/mrose.html) 



Multiflora rose leaves (a), stipules with bristles (b), fruit (c), and branches (d).

## Landowners: Don't Forget - Riparian Forest Buffer Protection for Waterways Tax Credit is Available

- A non-refundable tax credit
  - For individuals or S corporations who
    - own land on which timber is harvested and abuts a waterway
    - forebear timber harvesting on certain portions of their land for 15 consecutive years.
    - have a stewardship plan in place
    - have a minimum tract size of 10 acres (including buffer)
  - equal to 25% of the value of timber retained in the buffer up to \$17,500

Buffer continued on page 5

## Holiday Lake Forestry Camp Turns 60

Nominations are open for the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Lake Forestry Camp, to be held June 19-24 at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. This action-packed camp is hosted by Virginia Department of Forestry, with support and cooperation from other conservation agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals.

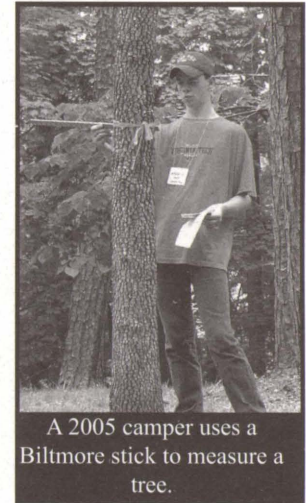
Forestry Camp is much more than a walk in the woods. Campers experience hands-on learning about wildlife habitat, tree identification, timber harvesting, reforestation, environmental protection, and more. They also take part in exciting field trips, exploratory classes, outdoor recreation and a Lumberjack Field Day.

Teachers, natural resource professionals, and others working with youth may make nominations for this popular camp. Campers must be 13-16 years old with good academic standing, an interest in natural resources, and must not have attended Forestry Camp before. Teachers may also attend camp to earn recertification credits.

Financial sponsorship is generously provided by forest industries, conservation agencies, associations, and individuals. As a result, every camper selected to attend receives a \$200 scholarship and pays only \$55 to attend camp. New sponsors are always welcome.

To nominate a camper, visit the VDOF website: [www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/camp.shtml](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/edu/camp.shtml)

For more information, please contact Ellen Powell at 434-220-9083 or [ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov). 



A 2005 camper uses a Biltmore stick to measure a tree.

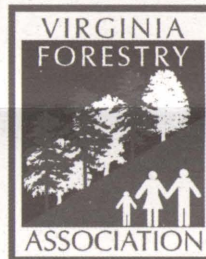
## Landowners Benefit by Joining the Virginia Forestry Association

The Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a group dedicated to the interests of landowners, the forest industry, consulting foresters, educators, loggers and others connected with our forest resources. The Association can be a valuable resource in the management of your forest. VFA provides many opportunities to meet and network with others who have an interest in the forest including an annual convention. In addition, VFA publishes a quarterly magazine containing timely and valuable information concerning forestry.


Dues for Landowners (based on forest acreage):

Up to 100 acres: \$50, 100-499 acres: \$60, 500-999 acres: \$100,  
1,000 acres: \$150, plus \$55 for each additional 1,000 acres

As a member of the Association you are eligible for hunting lease liability insurance and timberland liability insurance offered by the Davis-Garvin Agency. Both the landowner and the hunt club must be current members to participate in this program. For further information please call Ed Wilson at 1-800-845-3163.



Please mail your check to:  
Virginia Forestry Association  
3808 Augusta Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23230-3910  
or call 1-800-421-8733 for further  
information


VFA members with businesses having between two and 99 employees that have an Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Health Plan are eligible to receive additional value added benefits for their employees and families. Members that qualify do not have to pay any additional premiums for these value-added benefits. For more information, contact Linda Williams at Manry-Rawls Corp. 1-800-666-6131, your local agent, or Suzanne Stewart, Associations Account Executive at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield at 1-800-248-4158 Ext. 43952 or 1-804-354-3952. They can help answer questions you might have regarding the special health insurance benefits available through VFA. 

## A Word From the Virginia Tree Farm Committee

The American Tree Farm Systems mission calls for "promoting the growth of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of benefits of productive forestry", and every State Tree Farm Committee is attempting to fulfill this mission. The Virginia Tree Farm Committee is comprised of DOF foresters, independent forestry consultants and private landowner volunteers and this group works tirelessly to educate the private forest landowners of the benefits to having a Certified Tree Farm sign placed on their land.

In this age of technological advances the Virginia Tree Farm committee can now be found "on the Web". The Virginia Forestry Association has graciously agreed to link the Tree Farm Committee to their web address, which is [www.vaforestry.org](http://www.vaforestry.org). The obvious purpose of this development is to increase the "public understanding of the benefits of productive forestry". Our site will display the names of the Virginia Tree Farm Committee's officers and the various region chairmen. The information will include the various ways Tree Farmers, landowners and the public can contact these individuals. Additionally it will identify the Virginia counties that comprise each of the regions. If you have not previously added the Virginia Forestry Association web address to your "favorites" web pages, please do so very soon and click on Resources/Links. Look for the Virginia Tree Farm site that will contain the information previously mentioned. Also, investigate the American Forest Foundation for additional information concerning certification of Tree Farms.

The addition of the Web site is just another effort by the Virginia Tree Farm Committee to continue the mission of education outreach, for it is the goal of the committee to have the public recognize that a Certified Tree Farm sign signifies, *a sign of good forest practices*, promoted by Foresters, Consultants and private forest landowners across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sept 16, 2004 - reprinted with permission of Virginia Forestry Association. 

## Resource Review: Visual Guide to Timber Harvesting

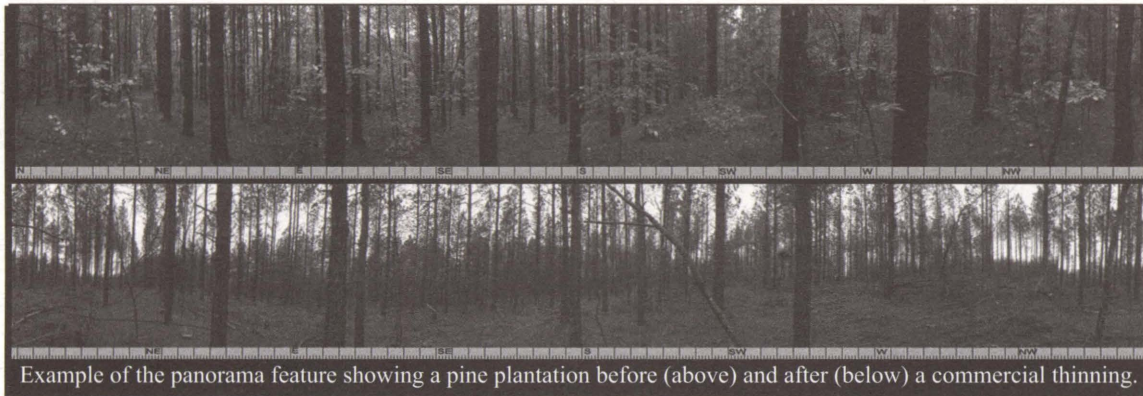
National Web-Based Learning Center for Non-Federal Forest and Rangelands

By: James Johnson, Shawn Baker and John Peterson (*Virginia Tech Dept. of Forestry*)

Reviewed by: Jennifer Gagnon, *Virginia Tech Dept. of Forestry*

Many forest management objectives can best be achieved through some form of timber harvesting. Determining which harvest type is most appropriate to attain specific goals and understanding the short and long term impacts of that decision are critical. The Visual Guide to Timber Harvesting website is a self-directed learning module designed to introduce landowners to a variety of timber harvesting practices. The site describes the benefits and drawbacks of mid-rotation and regeneration harvest methods, to help landowners determine which methods are appropriate for their forests and management objectives. The main teaching objectives of this site are to: 1. describe the common types of harvesting practices available in Appalachian hardwood and loblolly pine plantations; 2. explain the types of trees removed in each harvest; and 3. show the visual impacts of each harvest practice.

Using innovative new digital technology, a series of photographs was stitched together to form 360° virtual panoramic tours of seven different stands. In five of these stands, panoramas were taken before and after harvesting practices were implemented, illustrating the impacts of the management. The panoramas are interactive, and allow the user to zoom in to explore the stands more closely. In addition, individual trees can be selected, and information on species, height, diameter, product class and stumpage price is presented. Species names are linked to Landowner Fact Sheets on the Virginia Tech Forestry Department's Dendrology website (also funded by the National Web-based Learning Center for Non-Federal Forest and Rangelands). These sheets provide range maps, wildlife and timber values, regeneration methods, potential problems, and fun facts for each species.



Example of the panorama feature showing a pine plantation before (above) and after (below) a commercial thinning.

The website begins with a general discussion of sustainable timber harvesting. Technical terms are underlined and can be defined by clicking on the term. A side by side comparison of panoramas of poorly and well-managed hardwood stands clearly illustrates differences in the harvesting practices. Included are stumpage values for the two stands (based on 2003 prices).


Two types of mid-rotation cuts, hardwood crop tree release, and pine plantation thinning, are discussed and accompanied by panoramas showing the stands before and after harvest. Four regeneration harvests are discussed, including shelterwood, reserve shelterwood, diameter limit, and clearcut (both commercial and silvicultural). Photos of the shelterwood cuts are provided. Panoramas of the diameter limit and silvicultural hardwood and pine clearcuts are presented both before and after the harvests. In all cases, a description of pre-harvest stand condition is given with the panorama. The tour concludes with a summary page of the different types of harvesting practices.

The website can be navigated easily using the interactive table of contents menu on each page. A help section can be accessed from the home page. After navigating through the website, landowners should have a better idea of which harvesting methods could be used to best meet their management objectives and be able to discuss their options with their natural resource professional.

The website can be accessed from: <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/360/introduction/> 

### Buffer continued from page 3

- The riparian buffer must:
  - be at least 35 feet, no greater than 300 ft
  - remain in place for at least 15 years
  - be on a perennial or intermittent stream (as defined by the U.S. Geological Survey)
  - have at least 50% of the basal area remain intact
  - have at least 50% of the timber removed from the adjacent harvested area
- To apply, submit:
  - on-line application at [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)
  - \$100 application fee
  - copy of VDOF approved stewardship plan
  - proof of value of timber
  - map of buffer (on-line mapper available)

For more information, visit the Department of Forestry website at [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov) 



A forested riparian buffer

## Attention Forest Landowners:

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program Presents: Web-Based Woodland Options for Landowners Short Course

**Where:** On-line, in the comfort of your own home

**When:** Eleven-week self-paced course begins Wednesday, March 1, 2006; materials will be available on-line through August 2006

**Registration:** Begins on-line January 5th, 2006 at:  
[www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate)


**Cost:** \$60

**Computer Requirements:** Participants will need a computer, web browser (e.g., Netscape or Explorer), internet service provider (ISP), and e-mail account. Access to a printer is desirable. In addition, participants should download the most current versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader (version 5.0 or newer) and RealOne™ (look for the free version link), both available free over the internet.

**Materials:** No additional text, materials or costs are required to complete the basic requirements; optional advanced assignments, which you are strongly encouraged to complete, require a dendrology field guide, digital camera, compass with adjustable declination setting, topographic quadrangle map, aerial photograph and soil survey (ordering information for all these supplies will be available in the Announcements section of the course).

**Who Should Take this Course:** Private forest landowners of any acreage; this course is not intended for forest landowners who have substantial experience working alone or with natural resource professionals in the management of their forests. However, veteran landowners are welcome to enroll and may take the course as a refresher on basic forest management.

**Why:** To gain an introductory level understanding of basic forest management principles and techniques and to use this understanding to become better land stewards.

Please contact Jennifer Gagnon at [forester@vt.edu](mailto:forester@vt.edu) with any questions. 

### CONTACT OUR SPONSORS AND STATE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES:



#### Virginia Department of Forestry

900 Natural Resources Dr.  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
434/977-6555  
[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)



#### Virginia Tech Department of Forestry & Virginia Cooperative Extension

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540/231-6391  
[www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate)



#### Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

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804/367-1000  
[www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)



#### Virginia Forestry Association

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This publication is supported by matching grant funds from the Virginia Forest Stewardship Program administered by the Virginia Department of Forestry in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service.

VT/008/0103/19M/231025

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VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

FALL 2005  
Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Department of Forestry (0324)  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
Return Service Requested

