

**Tree Trunk**

**Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest**

This box contains lesson plans and supplies for field study on the Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest. Please review the lessons you intend to use online before your trip, as some activities may require students to bring extra clipboards or notebooks. Teachers may arrange to borrow the trunk by contacting the Virginia Dept. of Forestry office in Farmville at 434-392-4182, or by emailing [stateforest@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:stateforest@dof.virginia.gov) with “Prince Edward-Gallion” in the subject line.

General Forest Information

The Virginia State Forest system had its beginning in 1919, when Emmett O. Gallion bequeathed 588 acres to the State, to advance forestry in the southern piedmont. This land is the core of the Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest. Additional land was leased to the state after the federal government began purchasing marginal farmland under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, enacted to help conserve and restore the health of the land. In 1954, the federal government deeded the land to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Under the Virginia Department of Forestry's management, the forest grew to its present 6461 acres.

In the 1930's, much of today's forest was open farmland that had become unproductive and was highly eroded. When farming ceased, native pines colonized the abandoned fields. Eventually, as the soil improved and the pines died out, hardwood species became dominant. Today the Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest contains a diversity of timber types, including loblolly pine stands and mature oak-hickory forest. Management activities demonstrate good forestry and conservation practices and serve as sites for applied research in forestry. Wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed protection, and sustainable timber management are all goals for this State Forest.

The Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest offers opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, biking, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. Visitors are asked to adopt a “leave no trace” ethic when visiting the forest, as there are no restrooms or trash cans. (These can be found at Twin Lakes State Park, located within the State Forest and accessible for a small parking fee.) The main trail in the forest is the 8-mile Prince Edward-Gallion Multi-Use Trail, accessible from a parking area near Stony Knoll House on Rt. 689. (The trail is closed except on Sundays in November, December and early January due to heavy use by hunters.) Hikers may also use the network of forest roads and trails that traverse the forest.

The State Forests of Virginia are self-supporting and receive no taxpayer funds for operations. Operating funds are generated from the sale of forest products, demonstrating the value of good forestry practices. Twenty-five percent of the revenue from the sale of forest products on the Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest is returned to Prince Edward county.

Regulations

A complete listing of State Forest regulations may be found at [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov), but basic rules for Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest are as follows:

- Vehicles are permitted on established forest roads that are not gated.

- Pack out all trash.

- Do not remove any plant, mineral, or animal (except as acquired by legal hunting and fishing).

- Mountain biking and horseback riding require a State Forest Use Permit for those aged 16 and older.

- Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with State regulations. Both regular licenses and State Forest permits are required.

- **Prohibited** activities and items on this forest include camping, ATVs, alcoholic beverages, fireworks, and open air fires.

Directions for Access:

There is no office for the Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest. The main parking area is located near the trailhead on Rt. 689. Please see the map for other accessible roads. If you are bringing a group to the forest, please let the Dept. of Forestry office in Farmville know the date and approximate time of your visit. Call 434-392-4182, or email [stateforest@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:stateforest@dof.virginia.gov) with “Prince Edward-Gallion” in the subject line.