



NEWS RELEASE

Forest Landowners Retreat to the Woods

May 27, 2021

CONTACTS:

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Southwest Virginia landowners can learn more about actively managing their forestland during the Beginning Forest Landowners' Retreat, planned for August 27-28 at the Matthews State Forest in Galax. Topics will include forest management planning, timber sales, wildlife management, invasive species, tree identification and basic forest measurement. A tour of the Matthews State Forest will showcase white pine and hardwood management, wildlife practices and water quality protection.

Sponsoring partners for the retreat are Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF),

“This program provides an excellent introduction to forest management issues, especially for those new to land ownership,” said Ellen Powell of VDOF.

“We use a combination of classroom and field sessions, taught by experts, to get participants fully engaged in learning,” said Jennifer Gagnon of VFLEP. “The retreat format also allows people to share their experiences with other landowners.”

Registration with Thursday and Friday night lodging included is \$95 per person or \$170 per couple. The rate for commuters or those arranging their own lodging is \$55 per person or \$90 per couple. Both registration types include meals all day Friday, and Saturday through lunch. On-site lodging is limited, so participants should register early or plan to make their own lodging arrangements.

To register online or download a brochure, visit <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>. The deadline to register is August 12. For more information, contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540-231-6391 or jgagnon@vt.edu.

Persons with disabilities who desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity may also contact Jennifer during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations, no later than August 12. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

About the Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With nearly 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$21 Billion annually.

Headquartered in Charlottesville, the Agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it's been doing now for more than 100 years. VDOF is an equal opportunity provider.

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commonwealth. We are a dynamic organization that stimulates positive personal and societal change, leading to more productive lives, families, farms, and forests as well as a better environment.

Understanding that knowledge is power, we place that power in the hands of Virginians and help them learn how to use it to improve the quality of their lives. Our Extension agents and specialists form a network of educators whose classrooms are the communities, homes, and businesses of Virginia, where they bring research-based solutions to the problems facing Virginians today. Extension programs are delivered through a network of faculty at two universities, 108 county and city offices, 11 agricultural research and Extension centers, and six 4-H educational centers.

VCE and VDOF programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

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