



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Jennifer Gagnon
Virginia Cooperative Extension
jgagnon@vt.edu
(540) 231-6391
Ellen Powell
Virginia Department of Forestry
Ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov
(434) 987-0475

Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension Host Beginning Woodland Owners Retreat

Registration deadline is August 29

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – Eastern Virginia landowners new to forest land ownership or forest management are invited to the annual Beginning Woodland Owners’ Retreat, which will be held on September 9-10 at the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) [New Kent Conference Center](#) near Providence Forge.

Sponsored by VDOF, Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program, the retreat will include pine-focused forest management, timber sales, wildlife habitat improvement, tree identification and more. A tour of local properties will showcase forest management in action.

The deadline to register is August 29. To register online or download a mail-in brochure, visit the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program website at <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>. For more information, contact Virginia Tech Forest Landowner Education Program Coordinator Jennifer Gagnon (540-231-6391 or jgagnon@vt.edu).

“Good management decisions involve a wise use of one’s resources and abilities to accomplish successful outcomes, and this program provides a great introduction to those decision-making processes,” said VDOF Conservation Education Coordinator Ellen Powell. “We use a combination of classroom and field sessions, taught by experts, to inspire and support owners who are new to forest land management.”

“Applying well-established forest practices and treatments helps landowners achieve specific benefits that support their family’s goals,” said Virginia Tech Forest Landowner Education Program Coordinator Jennifer Gagnon. “Past participants have found the retreat format helpful, as they have opportunities to share their experiences, perspectives and questions with other Virginia landowners.”

Full retreat registration, including materials, meals and Friday and Saturday lodging, is \$105 per person or \$190 per couple. For those who live near the New Kent Forestry Center, a commuter option, with materials and meals only, is \$65 per person or \$110 per couple.

Persons with disabilities who desire any assistance, services or other accommodations to participate in

the retreat can contact Jennifer Gagnon at (800) 828-1120 (TDD number) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays to discuss accommodations. Please call no later than September 6.

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About the Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDof) 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.

About the Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Cooperative Extension brings the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the 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.