



NEWS RELEASE

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS HELP VIRGINIA LANDOWNERS WITH LEGACY PLANNING

Registration now open for in-person workshops

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) encourage landowners to make plans – now – for passing on land to the next generation. The Generation NEXT program, a collaboration between DOF and VCE, helps Virginia landowners with legacy planning to keep forests intact, in forest, and in family.

To help landowners get started and shed light on the legacy planning process, the Generation NEXT Program is hosting in-person workshops this summer and fall. The workshops, which will take place in three locations throughout Virginia, serve as opportunities for family members to ask difficult questions, receive useful information, and get on the same page about plans for the future.

Workshop information

Families pay a fee to participate which includes refreshments (and meals for full-day workshops) as well as all necessary materials. Registration opens eight weeks prior to each workshop. [Visit the Generation NEXT website for more information.](#)

Upcoming workshops:

- Charlottesville – Sept. 16
- Chatham – Oct. 20-21
- Richmond – Nov. 9

“Many landowners are overwhelmed by the legacy planning process and assume that it primarily involves complicated estate planning with attorneys and accountants,” said DOF Forestland Conservation Program Manager Karl Didier. “The Generation NEXT program helps ease estate planning and demonstrates how it’s just one part of the legacy planning process. Much like a forest changes over time, your plans will evolve. As priorities change or family dynamics shift, so should plans for your land.”

“One of the most important steps in legacy planning includes conversations between the landowner and the people who will steward their land after they’re gone,” said Generation NEXT Program Coordinator Karen Snape. “When unforeseen events occur before clearly established plans for your estate and land

can be put in place, things can quickly become complicated for surviving family members. Having these conversations now is critical.”

A companion to the workshop series, the award-winning Legacy Planning: A Guide for Virginia Landowners publication, provides an overview of the nine major steps involved in developing a robust land legacy plan. It includes case studies from landowners throughout Virginia and guides landowners to tools and resources. The [free publication is available on the Virginia Tech website](#) or in print by request.

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About the Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) 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. DOF is an equal opportunity provider.

About Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its 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, military status, or any other basis protected by law.