



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Forest Landowners Retreat to the Woods

Eastern Virginia landowners can learn more about actively managing their forestlands during the annual Beginning Forest Landowners' Retreat, to be held September 21-23 at New Kent Forestry Center near Providence Forge. Topics will include forest stewardship planning, pine management, timber sales, wildlife management, tree identification and more. A tour of local properties will showcase forest management in action.

Sponsoring partners for the retreat are Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program.

"This program provides a great introduction to forest management issues, especially for those new to land ownership," said Ellen Powell of the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Jennifer Gagnon of Virginia Tech's Forest Landowner Education Program said, "We use a combination of classroom and field sessions, taught by experts, to get participants fully engaged in learning. The weekend retreat format also enables people to share their experiences with other landowners."

Full retreat registration, including materials, meals and Friday and Saturday lodging, is \$95 per person or \$190 per couple. For those who live nearby, a commuter option, with materials and meals only, is \$55 per person or \$110 per couple.

To register online or download a mail-in brochure, visit www.forestupdate.frec.vt.edu. The deadline to register is September 7. 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 a.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations, no later than September 7. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.