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If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540/231-6391/TDD* during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Grayson-Carroll Counties

Thursday, October 30th

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Matthews State Forest

106 Forestry Lane

Galax, VA 24333

Tour begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.

This tour of beautiful southwest Virginia will highlight current forest management research projects on the Matthews State Forest. But white pine is really the star of this tour as we explore the many management options available for this species.

Stop 1: Restoration and Regeneration - Matthews State Forest.

Our tour will begin with an update on the status of American chestnut restoration efforts by the Virginia Department of Forestry and the American Chestnut Foundation. The implications of restoring this species on wildlife will be discussed. We'll also look at using the shelterwood silvicultural system to regenerate white pine.

Lunch: BBQ with all the SW Virginia fixins. Matthews State Forest.

Stop 2: Santa, Where do Christmas Wreaths Come From? On

this stop, we'll witness an active pine tipping operation on privately owned land. Branch tips from young white pines are harvested and used to make holiday decorations. Exact location will be determined on the fly, as the tipping crews are fast and highly mobile. We'll discuss how to manage white pines for tipping, and what to do with them when they get too large.

Growing Christmas trees seem like a natural topic to cover on this tour as well - so we'll have an Extension Specialist talk about this alternative opportunity for income.

Stop 3: Bottomley Evergreens. We'll take a short trip across the border into North Carolina to see how the white pine tips are used to make garlands, wreaths, and centerpieces.

Return no later than 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact:

Bill Worrell, bworrell@vt.edu, 276/889-8056.

Please register by 5:00 p.m. October 23rd

ALL ITINERARIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program & Virginia Cooperative Extension present:

The 38th Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours 2014 (aka "the Bus Tours")



Join fellow forest landowners and a host of Natural Resource Professionals for a fun and exciting day in the woods learning about forest and wildlife management.

These tours promote wise resource management on private forestlands. You will (1) observe science-based management practices (2) become acquainted with public and private sources of technical and financial management assistance, and (3) network with fellow landowners, natural resource professionals, and others that share your interest in Virginia's natural resources.

Each tour includes several demonstration stops on private, industry, and public lands. See inside for information on fees for individual tours, departure points and itineraries.

All tours are outdoors and held rain or shine. Please dress appropriately (sturdy shoes, rain gear, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc.).

A limited number of scholarships are available for K-12 teachers. Please call Jennifer Gagnon 540/231-6391 for details.

Awarded first-come, first-served.

Chesapeake Bay Bus & Boat Tour

Monday and Tuesday, September 29-30

This is a two-day tour. Transportation, overnight accommodations, and 2 lunches, 1 breakfast, 1 dinner and refreshments are included in the registration fee.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Northern Neck Transit
111 Commerce Parkway, Warsaw, VA 22572
for check-in and refreshments; tour begins at 8:30 a.m.

Join us for a 2-day Boat and Bus Tour in, on & near the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure. The Chesapeake Bay is the nation's largest estuary and the focus of ongoing water quality research and watershed land-use practices. Forests and the management of them are generally recognized as a positive form of land-use for water quality. This is a result of excellent best management practices and committed managers. Join us as we explore forestry on the land and experience the impacts from within the Bay.

Day 1, Stop 1: Poplar & Pine. Explore 2 privately owned neighboring Tree Farms in the heart of the Northern Neck where pine and pine's impersonator are on exhibit in various stages of traditional and novel management methods. We'll provide a quick review of basic forest management to include harvesting, BMPs, regeneration and the 5 W's of silviculture. Finally, we'll draw connections from woodland 200 miles away to the Northern Neck and what it has to do with the Chesapeake Bay.

Day 1, Stop 2: Bay Immersion. Ferry from Reedville to Tylerton on Smith Island on the Maryland side of the Chesapeake Bay. After lunch on the island, catch your own famous Chesapeake Bay blue crabs for dinner while experiencing island life and culture. Visit a crab-picking co-op run by the watermen's wives which adds needed profit to their local economy.

Overnight lodging accommodations (bunk-house style) with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Tylerton, MD. (Included in the tour package.)

Day 2, Stop 1: Wake up to the reality of the Bay's unique values. Explore the underwater grass beds, sinking island, and catch views of other unique wildlife and bay life on the land and water surrounding Smith Island. Return to the Old Dominion and terra-firma. Bagged lunch to eat on return boat ride.

Day 2, Stop 2: "Preserving". To preserve an ecosystem and a way of life in a changing world... The challenges of cleaning the Chesapeake Bay are myriad. Forests are a big part of the solution and keeping land covered in trees is best accomplished with the free market. We'll go behind the scenes of one business that turns simple pine trees into specialty treated wood products.

Discover the changes this industry has experienced in the past 50 years and what it takes to profit in business and in owning woodlands, all the while contributing to ecosystem integrity.

Return by 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact:
Adam Downing, adowning@vt.edu, 540/948-6881
or Neil Clark, neclark@vt.edu, 757/653-2572.

Please register by 5:00 p.m. September 15

****IMPORTANT** if you register for this tour, please visit <http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu> for travel/lodging/packing details.**

Halifax County

Friday, October 10th

Meet at 8:00 a.m. on the west side of
Hupps Mill Plaza Shopping Center
2219 Wilborn Ave. South Boston, VA
Tour begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.

On this tour of Halifax County in south central Virginia, we'll learn about agro-forestry, loblolly pine management, and exotic invasives. We'll end the day with a tour of a wood products manufacturing facility.

Stop 1: Edmunds Farms - Growing Trees and Grasses? Take a peek at silvopasture which pairs grazing livestock with growing trees.

Stop 2: Graves Family Farms. On this privately-owned Tree Farm we'll look at the differences between released and unreleased pine seedlings planted in a clearcut. We'll also learn about the benefits of prescribed fire and how it can be used as a management tool for bobwhite quail. The stop will finish up with a discussion of invasive plants - their impacts and how to control them.

Lunch: Southern-style buffet with all the fixins.

Stop 3: Forest Health. Witness first-hand the devastation caused by the exotic invasive insect the emerald ash borer. Current Virginia Tech research on controlling this pest will be presented.

Stop 4: Huber Engineered Woods. See where some of the pine being grown in Southside ends up. On a tour of this facility, we will learn how oriented strand board (OSB) is made (and what OSB is, if you don't know). We will have a discussion about the advanced technologies used to make this highly useful product.

Return by 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact:
Jason Fisher, jasonf@vt.edu, 434/476-2147.
Please register by 5:00 p.m. October 1st



Register and pay on-line!
Visit <http://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu>
and look for Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field
Tours under Landowner Programs.

Or send this form and payment to:

Jennifer Gagnon
228 Cheatham Hall (0324)
310 West Campus Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24061

(make checks payable to: **Virginia Tech Treasurer***). Registration fees include transportation, refreshments and lunch.

_____ will attend (check all that apply)

- Chesapeake Bay \$150/person
 Halifax \$45/person; \$75/couple
 Grayson-Carroll \$30/person;
\$50/couple
 I am a K-12 teacher

Please print or type.

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Please let us know if you have any special
dietary needs _____

There will be a \$25 service charge for returned checks.