Two Program Opportunities for Woodland Owners

Our District Forestry Agent, Bill Worrell, is planning two important programs for those of you who own woodland properties. The first program is older landowners who are looking to pass their forest on to a next generation.

The Protecting Family Land program will be held as two Thursday evening sessions, May 15 and the 22nd, from 6-9 PM at the SWVA Higher Education Center, in Abingdon. Attendees will learn about heir’s property and estate planning, hear from legal, financial and conservation experts, and create a personal roadmap for legacy planning.

Space is limited so contact Karen Snape at 540-231-6494 or [ksnape@vt.edu](mailto:ksnape@vt.edu) if you have any questions. Registration is discounted by gr-funding and is only $20 person and $15 for additional family members. You can also register on-line at https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/onlineregistration.html

Next… are you new to the area or want to learn more about managing the timber on your property? Join forest landowners, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and Virginia Cooperative Extension for an interactive program focused on actively managing your woodlands.

The Southwest Virginia Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat is to be held at the SW VA 4-H Educational Center in Abingdon on May 30-31. Lodging is available on-site, first come, first served, on both Thursday evening, prior to the opening program (dinner on your own) and Friday evening. All rooms have private bathrooms, and couples will be housed together when possible. You may also choose to commute from home or stay at a local hotel.

Topics at the retreat include: Determining your management goals; Management planning ; Timber sales and harvests; Managing for wildlife; American chestnut research update; Tree identification; Valuing your trees; and Hardwood management. Parts of the program will be held outside so please plan your attire accordingly. Sturdy, closed-toed shoes and long pants are required; hats, jackets, and rain gear are recommended.

Check-in for onsite lodging begins Thursday, May 29, 6-7:30 p.m. with dinner on your own. Check-in for all participants will be on Friday, May 30, 7:15 a.m. Breakfast, lunch & dinner are provided. Our program concludes Saturday, May 31, 12:45 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Registration is required by May 16th. You may register and pay on-line at <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu> or send a form available at the Extension Office and payment to:

Kathie Hollandsworth

228 Cheatham Hall (0324)

Blacksburg, VA 24061

Make checks payable to Virginia Tech Treasurer.

The cost is dependent on lodging and the number in your party. If you require no lodging, the cost is $60 for individuals and $120 per couple. If you come early and stay the night of the 29th and 30th, your cost will be $120 per person/ $240 per couple. If lodging is needed only for Friday night, your costs are $90 and $180 respectively.

least cost option.

Upcoming Events

April 22 Smyth Washington Cattleman Meeting: Drone Use, 6:30 PM at the 4-H Center

April 24 Pasture Walk, WL Hanger in Chilhowie 5-8 PM

June 12-14 OGATA Summer Show, 908 Hillman Hwy, Abingdon VA

July 7-11 Smyth County 4-H Camp

July 29 Youth Day at Rich Valley Fair… stay tuned for more information

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Andy Overbay or Pam Testerman at (276) 783-5175/TDD (800) 828-1120) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

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