Landowner Woods & Wildlife Conference Coming to Wytheville

Virginia is home to over 16 million acres of forests, with nearly 70% owned by private individuals and families. The woodsy havens support thousands of different plant and animal species which all rely on the greenspace of these landscapes to survive.

If you are a private landholder, guess what? You are the key to keeping forests healthy and productive. You can be a more informed caretaker by attending the upcoming Southwest Landowner Woods and Wildlife Conference in Wytheville on February 10.

Registration is now open on-line at <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu> for the conference to be held at the Wytheville Meeting Center. The cost for the conference is $55 per person or $90 for a couple.

Registration and breakfast will be held from 8:30 until 9 am and lunch is also provided. The program will open with remarks by Jennifer Gagnon, VFLEP Coordinator at Virginia Tech, followed by a presentation on Vegetation and Habitat Management on National Forest System Lands. by Beth Christensen, district ranger for the Eastern Divide Ranger District of the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest. Beth will provide an overview of vegetation management practices occurring on National Forest System Lands and the interrelated ecological, economic, and social importance these practices play.

Following Beth’s presentation, you will have the choice of several presentations including: Forest Health Update. Dr. Carrie Fearer; Tips for Purchasing the Perfect Parcel. Justin Funk; Riparian-stream Connections Support Water Quality and Aquatic Biodiversity. Dr. Sally Entrekin; and Forest Products. Dr. Urs Buehlmann. Details of each session is available on line or by contacting the Extension Office.

Following lunch, Dr. Jim Hamilton will speak on “Wild-simulated Ginseng: An Options for Underutilized Forest Land.” The presentation will briefly cover the history/culture of ginseng followed by how it can be established & managed on certain woodland properties/environments as a long-term non-timber forest product, and some management considerations. Other forest medicinal plants will also be covered briefly.

The remainder of the afternoon will include two sessions of concurrent presentations of a variety of topics and conclude with a capstone presentation by Dr. Marcella Kelly entitled “Coexistence Ecology of Appalachian Carnivores.” This talk will cover Dr. Kelly and her lab’s many years of research on bears, bobcats, and coyotes, of the Central Appalachian Mountains, and discuss impacts of this carnivore community on white-tailed deer and potentially even on forest structure.

Upcoming Events

Jan 23 VFGC Winter Conference, Wytheville Meeting Center, Registration at 8 am, Program 9-3

Jan 27 Beef Cattle Health Conference, Alphin Stuart Arena, VA Tech

Feb 9 Deadline to consign claves to the March VQA Sale

Feb 10 Forest Landowner Conference, Wytheville

Mar 19 VQA Sale

Mar 25 VQA Steer Take Up

Mar 27 VQA heifer Take Up

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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