

From: The Virginia Forest Landowner Update

V. 22 No. 3 Summer 2008

The Bus Tours are Coming! The Bus Tours are Coming!

As has happened every fall for the past 31 years, Virginia Cooperative Extension is teaming up with partners across Virginia to host the 32nd Annual Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours (aka the "Bus Tours") this October. Partners include Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Forestry Association, SFI® State Implementation Committee, Forest Industry, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Resource & Conservation Development Councils, USDA Forest Service, Land Trusts, private forestry consultants, private landowners and many more.

These tours expose participants to a wide variety of forestry and wildlife management practices in different forest types on both public and private lands. Previous tour stops have included:

- Tree Farms • Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve • Sabine Hall • Potomac Supply • Columbia Forest Product's plywood plant
- Goshen-Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area • Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest

Management activities demonstrated include:

- white pine planting/tipping • timber harvests • seed orchards • deer exclosures to promote oak regeneration
- Best Management Practices • trout management • exotic invasive identification and control

The tours also provide an opportunity for participants to interact with natural resource professionals in a casual atmosphere and a catered lunch. Landowners, teachers, government employees and interested citizens are all welcome! Check in and late registration begin at 8:00 a.m. Tours usually run until 4 – 5:00 p.m.

Comments from previous tours include:

"Last year's romp around looking at trees, was still one of the best days I've had for years!" 2007 Frederick County Tour participant.

"Super organization, well planned to motivate, inspire & create within us more effective knowledge & stewardship for our homes & communities." 2007 Albemarle County Tour participant.

The 2008 Series will include four tours. The series will kick off at Fort Pickett in Nottoway County on October 2. Montgomery and Giles Counties will follow on October 10th, and Rockbridge County will host a tour on October 15th. The fourth tour is planned for Essex County.

Please contact Jennifer Gagnon at 540/231-6391 or jgagnon@vt.edu or visit www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate for detailed itineraries and registration information. A limited number of scholarships are available for K-12 teachers interested in attending.

Hope to see you out in the woods this fall!

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program has been coordinating the Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour efforts for the past four years.



Images from Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours past (clockwise): Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, 2005; Bath County 2006; Grayson County 2006; King George County 2006; Patrick County 2007. King George photo by Adam Downing; remaining photos by Jennifer Gagnon.