



2022 VIRGINIA FORESTRY SUMMIT IS COMING TO BLACKSBURG, VA

Virginia Tech's campus is the setting for this year's Virginia Forestry Summit, with plenty of opportunities to experience—or return to—this premier forestry and natural resources educational institution. Reconnect with alumni and professors, meet some of the students from the College of Natural Resources and Environment, and get behind-the-scenes looks at woodland management at the university as well as at the nearby George Washington & Jefferson National Forest.

With a return to its original spring timeframe, the Forestry Summit gives us the opportunity to publicly install VFA's new officers and board members, reflect on the recently concluded General Assembly, and provide strategic vision for the upcoming year.

This year, the Forestry Summit features three educational tracks, including Innovations in Silvicultural Practices; Working Smarter; and Achieving Operational Excellence, that are both topic- and audience-focused so that you can select the sessions that are most valuable to you.

To register or learn more about sessions, speakers and continuing education credits, visit forestrysummit.com or visit the VFA website at vaforestry.org.

THE INN AT VIRGINIA TECH 901 Prices Fork Road • Blacksburg, VA

Visit forestrysummit.com/registration-hotel for online reservations or call (540) 231-8000 and ask for the Forestry Summit rate. Room Rate: \$132 per night single/double (plus tax). The negotiated rate of \$132 is available Mon., May 2, through Wed., May 5, 2022. Additional nights may be available upon request.



RESERVE YOUR ROOM BY FRIDAY, APRIL 8

CHOOSE FROM THESE REGISTRATION OPTIONS

REGISTER BY MONDAY, APRIL 25

Full Registration

**\$355 per person* / \$530 per couple
\$455 non-member**

Includes all sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the Welcome Reception, the Awards Reception and Banquet, and the Wednesday tours.

Wednesday Only

**\$240 per person* / \$355 per couple
\$340 non-member**

Includes Wednesday's sessions, the Awards Reception and Banquet, and the Wednesday tours.

Tuesday PM Only

**\$140 per person* / \$230 per couple
\$240 non-member**

Includes Tuesday's lunch, sessions and the Welcome Reception. (Extra registration fee required for Tuesday morning PLT Workshop.)

Thursday AM Only

**\$140 per person* / \$230 per couple
\$240 non-member**

Includes Thursday's sessions only. (Extra registration fee required for the VFLEP Landowner Extravaganza.)

*ACF / SAF / VFA member



Virginia Chapter



Virginia Division

MAY 3 – MAY 5, 2022

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



FEATURING THREE EDUCATIONAL TRACKS

■ **Innovations in Silvicultural Practices** – Geared for foresters, loggers, and forest stakeholders looking to discover products and techniques that enhance productivity, resilience, and efficiency in forest management.

■ **Working Smarter** – Geared for owners and managers of established forestry businesses that are looking to grow and expand in a sustainable and profitable way.

■ **Achieving Operational Excellence** – Geared for forest product business operators who are looking to learn about efficiencies and improvements, developments in wood processing technology, and new and emerging uses for wood.

Tuesday, May 3

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Exhibitor Setup**

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM **Registration Open**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **PLT Workshop**
Have fun exploring the natural world with Project Learning Tree (PLT), an award-winning environmental education program designed by educators, for educators. Workshop participants will receive a copy of the PLT Explore Your Environment Guide, which contains hands-on, interdisciplinary activities for grades K-8. *Registration fee is \$30.*

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **VFA Board Meeting**

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM **SAF Executive Committee Meeting**

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM **ACF Virginia Chapter Meeting**

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM **Lunch**

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM **Opening General Session**

■ **State of the Wood Industry**

Virginia Tech is rolling out the red carpet to welcome the attendees of the 2022 Forestry Summit! Dr. Paul Winistorfer, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, will give a welcoming address and discuss the latest accomplishments of the college. Dr. Winistorfer will then lead a panel discussion on the current state of the wood industry.

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM **Breakout Sessions**

■ **INNOVATIONS IN SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES: Helping Landowners Understand Their Carbon Market Options.** This session provides an overview of the carbon market options available to landowners. Discuss the unique benefits of the options, learn about tools and resources to help landowners navigate the landscape and make the best decision for their goals. *Speaker: Andrew Richards, ACRE Investment Management, LLC*

■ **WORKING SMARTER: Hiring the Non-Forester Forester.** Hear a panel of non-traditional foresters discuss their forestry career journeys, including a discussion on the unique skillset that makes them successful. Employers can gain insight into non-traditional skills to look for when hiring.

■ **ACHIEVING OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE: Creating a Market for Hardwood.** Hear the latest on how the Virginia forestry industry is poised for growth. A panel will discuss the latest research and development of cross-laminated timber (CLT), how supply chain issues are impacting the CLT mass timber industry, and how new market opportunities are impacting Virginia's economy.



6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Welcome Reception**
Meet up with industry colleagues and friends for a casual evening of conversation, drinks, and appetizers at the University Club in Lane Stadium. *Shuttle will be provided. The Welcome Reception is included in the Full Registration. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$35.*

Wednesday, May 4

7:30 AM – 2:30 PM **Registration Open**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Networking Breakfast**

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM **Membership Meeting**

Held annually in accordance with VFA bylaws, the annual meeting is an opportunity for members to receive a state of the association address, to install new officers and directors, and to recognize the contributions of outgoing volunteer leaders.



■ Keynote Conversation with Virginia Senator Frank Ruff

Sen. Frank Ruff's experience in business and government has allowed him to become a champion for forestry in the Virginia General Assembly. As chief patron of legislation creating the new Forest Sustainability Fund, he led efforts to incentivize counties to adopt and retain forest land use taxation across

the Commonwealth. A retired furniture business owner, Frank understands the challenges faced by rural Virginians with economic development, education and workforce training. Join VFA ED Corey Connors and Sen. Frank Ruff for a conversation on his career, opportunities and challenges in rural Virginia, and an inside look at the Virginia legislature.

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM **Breakout Sessions**

■ INNOVATIONS IN SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES:

Geospatial Technology Tools for Forest Management.

Join us for a two-part workshop on the advancements in geospatial technology and their use in forest management. For the first part of the workshop, there will be a presentation at the conference center about the various techniques available to the public and how they can be utilized in the industry. The second part of the workshop will be a trip down to Virginia Tech's drone cage where we will have three drones in flight for our audience to see in action. We will also have stations available where our audience will be able to test the drone out themselves.

Speakers: Dr. Scott Barrett, VT Associate Professor; Daniel Cross, VT Project Associate – UAS Operator/GIS; Alison Ritz, FREC graduate student; Paige Williams, FREC graduate student

■ WORKING SMARTER:

Current Status of the Forest Products Industry: Housing Markets and Beyond.

While economic disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic seem to be declining, the U.S. economy is facing other challenges such as inflationary pressures and supply chain disruptions,



along with global uncertainties. This presentation will discuss these challenges and some of the ways forest industry manufacturers are adapting to current economic and market conditions. *Speaker: Dr. Urs Buehlmann, Virginia Tech, Department of Sustainable Biomaterials.*

■ ACHIEVING OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

Adapting Your Business Model to Meet the Changing Demand for Forestry Products.

Hear from a panel of forestry grant program experts to give an overview of programs available to new and expanding forestry businesses. Learn how to identify strategic partners who can support new investments and job creation in your business. Panelists will discuss lessons learned and what market indicators to look for when seeking grant support for your expanding business.

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM **Luncheon General Session**

■ **VFA Advocacy Update.** Robert Crockett, President of Advantus Strategies and contract lobbyist for the Virginia Forestry Association, will review the 2022 General Assembly session and its impact on Virginia's forestry community, including the Forest Sustainability Fund, solar, and tax incentives for forest management.

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM **Tours** (See page 5 for details.)

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM **SAF Virginia Division Meeting**

7:00 PM – 7:30 PM **Reception**

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM **Annual Awards Banquet**

The final evening of the 2022 Forestry Summit highlights the forestry community's most accomplished leaders and celebrates the past year. A reception precedes our annual Awards Banquet. *The reception and banquet are included in the cost of a full registration. Guests may join us for the reception and Banquet for an additional fee of \$85.*





VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM

LANDOWNER EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, May 5 • 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Lunch provided by the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation

Welcome Presentation – *Speakers: Paul Winistorfer, CNRE Dean; Jay Sullivan, FREC Department Head; and Corey Connors, Virginia Forestry Association*

Tours. Choose one tour from the list below. Tours depart from the Alumni Center. **Registration for the tours is handled through the VFLEP website: forestupdate.frec.vt.edu**

■ **Tree Identification and Forest Ecology** – Join John Peterson and John Seiler for a walking tour of Pandapas Pond. Peterson will teach you how to identify common tree species found around the pond. Seiler will share the history of the pond, discuss changes occurring in the Table Mountain pine communities, and explain ecological process driving ecosystem changes including succession, the effects of aspect, and more. Participants will receive a free copy of the book *Common Native Trees of Virginia*.

■ **Preparing for Generation NEXT Legacy Planning Workshop** – Join members of the Generation NEXT Team to learn about what steps you can take to help ensure your treasured woodlands remain intact, in forest, and in family for the long-term.

■ **A Tour of Virginia Tech's Urban Forest** – Join Jamie King, Virginia Tech's first ever University Arborist, for a walking tour of the Virginia Tech campus. Jamie will discuss various aspects of managing an urban forest and talk about which tree species are best suited for urban versus rural environments.

■ **Agroforestry at the Catawba Sustainability Center** – Join John Fike, from the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, for a walking tour of the beautiful Catawba Sustainability Center property. John will discuss the varied options for implementing agroforestry practices on your land.

■ **On-going Research and Innovation in Forest Products** – Join Extension Specialist Brian Bond for a tour of the Brooks Forest Products Lab to learn about the latest research on cross-laminated timber, pallets, and more!

Special door prizes will be awarded including a one-year membership to the Virginia Forestry Association and oak seedling from Virginia Tech's Stadium Woods.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, CONTINUED

Thursday, May 5

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM **Fun Run**

Meet-up with your fellow Summit attendees in the lobby of the hotel for a run/walk through the scenic Virginia Tech campus. No fee to participate.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM **Breakfast**

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM **Registration Open**

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Breakout Sessions**

■ **INNOVATIONS IN SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES:**

Treating Invasives and Pest Disease in the 21st Century. In this session you will learn about new and innovative ways of combating invasives. Learn about the latest research on bio controls and technological advances that foresters can use to help landowners for long-term control. *Speaker: Lori Chamberlain, Virginia Department of Forestry*

■ **WORKING SMARTER:**

How to Develop a Future Forestry Workforce in a Challenging Business Environment. A discussion of case studies of successful industry programs and initiatives created to address forestry industry workforce issues and how they are developing a pipeline of qualified workers for the future. *Speaker: Chris Isaacson, Alabama Forestry Association*

■ **ACHIEVING OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:**

Using New Research and Technologies to Improve Truck Driver Safety. The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) conducts research to save lives, time, and money and protect the environment. With a focus on addressing real-world challenges, VTTI follows a research-to-practice philosophy by translating research findings into actionable countermeasures – most recently with a strong focus on cutting-edge driver assistance and automated truck technologies. VTTI faculty will discuss the latest in truck driver safety research.

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM **Networking with Exhibitors**

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Closing General Session**

■ **Finding Passion, Inspiration, and Excellence in Forestry with Dr. Mamie Parker**

Dr. Mamie Parker shares her journey entering work in the natural resources profession, as she became the first African American Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director and the first African American Senior Executive Service member in the FWS's 135-year history. Her powerful message encourages all to be passionate about our forests and to strive for excellence in the everyday.



12:30 PM – 5:00 PM **VFLEP Landowner Extravaganza**

INTERACTIVE TOURS

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 • 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

A true highlight of each Forestry Summit, our guided tours provide an opportunity to interact with the local forest resource and local attractions alongside your fellow attendees. *Space is limited! Tours are included with Full Registration and Wednesday Only Registration. Additional fee is required for Beliveau Farm Winery Tour.*



■ **Campus Woods Tour: Tour of Lane Stadium and Stadium Woods.** The rare old-growth urban forest near Lane Stadium covers approximately 11.5 acres. It contains over 250 large trees, including dozens of white oak trees that have been estimated by scientists to be over 300 years old. The woods are unofficially referred to as Stadium Woods.



■ **Hardwood Tour: George Washington–Jefferson National Forest.** Blacksburg is home to the Eastern Divide Ranger District of the National Forest. USDA Forest Service silviculturist Mark Miller and his staff will lead a tour through the National Forest, located just outside Blacksburg. See examples of irregular shelterwoods, crop tree release, group selections, and thinnings as this tour showcases the tremendous work the Forest Service does stewarding the forest resource.

■ CLT Tour: Tour of the Brooks Forest Products Center

The Thomas M. Brooks Forest Products Center within the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials contains a variety of research laboratories and equipment, including labs for wood-based composites manufacture and testing, a high-bay wood engineering lab with full-scale timber testing equipment, the Center for Packaging and Unit Load and Design, and the Wood Enterprise Institute.



■ Beliveau Farm Winery Tour

Beliveau Farm is a boutique Virginia winery located on the edge of Montgomery County just 12 miles from downtown Blacksburg. Take a hiking tour through the vineyard and up the property that ends in a barrel wine tasting in the wine making facility. *Registration fee is \$60. Includes a wine tasting and transportation to/from the hotel.*



PROJECT LEARNING TREE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 3 • 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Have fun exploring the natural world with Project Learning Tree (PLT), an award-winning environmental education program designed by educators, for educators. Workshop participants will receive a copy of the PLT Explore Your Environment Guide, which contains hands-on, interdisciplinary activities for grades K–8. *Registration fee is \$30.*





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(as of March 24, 2022)

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Enviva LP	Landmark Spatial Solutions	Virginia Department of Forestry	Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation
Forestry Mutual Insurance Co.		Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program	Department of Sustainable Biomaterials

Check our website to see updated listings of sponsors and exhibitors who will join us at the 2022 Virginia Forestry Summit!



2022 Virginia Forestry Summit

Virginia Forestry Association
3808 Augusta Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230-3910



Join us

for inspiring and educational sessions, plentiful networking opportunities, and immersive tour experiences on and around the campus at Virginia Tech.



MAY 3-5, 2022 • BLACKSBURG, VA

NEW THIS YEAR! Three targeted educational tracks will help you select sessions that focus on topics of interest and importance to you, including **Innovations in Silvicultural Practices; Working Smarter;** and **Achieving Operational Excellence.**

Details and Registration Inside!

