



# TREE Cookies Etc.

February 2006

Volume 2, Issue 1



## Calendar

- **March 1 – Aug. 31: Web-Based Woodland Options for Landowners Short Course** – an eleven week self-paced course for landowners of large or small acreage to gain an introductory level understanding of basic forestry principles.  
[www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/forestupdate)
- **March 3: Northern Va Urban & Community Forestry Commission Quarterly Round-table, Arlington, VA**
- **March 8: Threats to the Urban Forest** – Diseases, Insects, Storms, Lightning & Invasive species, Roanoke, VA
- **March 10, 17 & 25: SHARP Logger Core Program, Lovingson, VA**

## Virginia Cooperative Extension

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**tree cookie** (trē' kookē) n. a cross sectional slice of a trunk or branch. The concentric rings tell not only the age of that part of the tree, but also a story about the environmental conditions, history, and dynamics of that tree, in that place.

**TREE Cookies Etc.** n. 1. a free electronic newsletter dedicated to tell the story of forest stewardship, tree care, and natural resource management. 2. to help people make best decisions regarding the resources entrusted to them.

*Dear Reader,*

*Did you know that over 60% of Virginia is covered in trees? Our Commonwealth has approximately 16 million acres of forestland. What's more, 77% of these woodlands are owned by private forestland owners.*

*Do you know how important these*

*woodlands are? According to a Virginia Department of Forestry Study, in its entirety, Virginia's Forests provide over \$30 billion in benefits to the Commonwealth... each year!*

*If you own some of these woods, on behalf of all Virginian's, thanks!*

## Got Woods? Investment Strategy #2

Most professional foresters consider the most important step to take to invest in your woods is to have a plan, that is "investment strategy #1" (refer to [Vol. 1, Issue 1](#)). Perhaps the second most important step to take toward investing in your woods is to establish a good working relationship with several natural resource professionals. These folks have expertise and experience to help you avoid pitfalls, take advantage of opportunities, and help you meet your goals.

Let's assume that "attracting wildlife" is one of your goals. A common pitfall many landowners make is assuming that the best thing they can do for their woods to make it a good place for wildlife is to leave it alone. Leaving a forest to develop at it's own pace and in its own way is a passive approach to management. While passive, it does have consequences which may be negative for some species of wildlife.

Many of Virginia's most loved wildlife, need a mixture of habitat types, including early successional. Early successional habitat results from field abandonment or major forest disturbance such as a tornado or a timber harvest. A Natural Resource Professional, such as a wildlife biologist from the [Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries](#), can work with you to manipulate, i.e., manage, your property to meet certain needs of certain wildlife within given constraints such as native range, population dynamics, and landscape level habitat features. In some cases, a wildlife biologist will work with a forester to help a landowner accomplish certain goals.

## Virginia Cooperative Extension

*Knowledge for the Commonwealth*



## Got Woods - continued



*“Natural Resource Professionals have a passion for the natural resource, regardless of where it is”*

Foresters represent another group of professionals woodland owners should have a working relationship with. Foresters from industry, private consulting and state agencies work with landowners to help meet landowner goals. The most common use of a forester is to help sell timber, though they can and should be used to write management plans, manage tree plantings, implement intermediate tending treatments to improve the woods, design soil stabilization techniques to keep sediment out of waterways, etc.

Many pitfalls can be avoided by working with a good forester, but probably the most common is in getting a fair price when selling timber. Timber prices, unlike some agricultural commodities, are market driven. This is good for the marketplace, but can be frustrating for individuals trying to sell timber. Private consulting foresters help you find the market value through introducing some competition. A sealed bid competition benefits landowners by getting the highest possible price.

Establishing positive working relationships with Natural Resource Professionals also positions you to take advantage of opportunities. Various cost-share programs can help landowners offset certain practices such as tree planting, invasive plant control, livestock fencing, etc. if certain criteria are met AND funding is available. The best way to know about these and be ready to take advantage of them is to be working with the agencies involved.

The long and short of it is this: Natural Resource Professionals have a passion for the natural resource, regardless of where it is. Private landowners own most of Virginia's natural resources. We get excited when we meet a landowner who wants to work with us to help them meet their goals.

To find the local Natural Resource Professionals in your area, contact your local [Virginia Cooperative Extension office](#) or [Virginia Department of Forestry Office](#). Either place can help you begin networking. ✍ AKD

## Pruning and Physiology

What happens inside a tree when a branch is pruned? Whether a branch is pruned (naturally or by man) two processes begin - wound response and bud response. Both involve chemical and physical processes.

Wound response is activated by the sudden presence of oxygen and lack of restriction to cell expansion. The first action the tree takes is to protect itself

against infection. It does this by altering the chemical and physical nature of the newly exposed wood. Rather than “heal” wounds, trees seal them off to prevent wide spread infection. The xylem and phloem (the arteries and veins of vascular plants like trees) around the wound are blocked which keeps the infection from moving

continued



*Pruning is one of the best things an arborist can do **for** a tree but one of the worst things we can do **to** a tree.*

- Alex Shigo,  
Father of Modern  
Arboriculture

up or down the tree. To prevent the spread from circling around the tree, the rays (the lateral transporting structures for water and nutrients) are blocked. Finally, the last area to “seal off” is the outer surface. Depending on the size of the wound and the vigor of the tree, it will attempt to build a completely new outer wall. This is the visible part of the wound and sometimes results in “burls”.

Bud response begins when a terminal bud on the tree or shrub is suddenly removed. A plant's form results from a complex interaction between genetics and environment. Terminal buds are responsible for shoot length and actually inhibit lateral buds. Lateral (or axillary) buds only sometimes form tissue growth. One case in which they would form tissue growth is by the removal of the terminal bud. When this happens a lateral bud will take over as the terminal bud since the tree is programmed to grow taller.

This clarifies the common pruning question, “Where do I cut?” What one is really asking is “Which bud do I want to release?”

The environmental influence is basically light. All plants try to reach light by growing upwards or sideways. When a plant is shaded, differential growth is triggered. The illuminated side of the plant tends to be released because of the breakdown of auxins, an organic compound that inhibits lateral bud development otherwise.

These two processes together mean that all the pruning in the world will not keep the plant from growing in that direction. Successful pruning works with genetic and environmental constraints. Start by observing the plant. How is it growing? What is causing the growth responses I see? How can I use those responses and their causes in making pruning decisions?

For information on how to prune, access the following publications [online](#) or from your local extension office.

[A Guide to Successful Pruning, Pruning Deciduous Trees](#)

[A Guide to Successful Pruning: Pruning Basics and Tools](#)

[A Guide to Successful Pruning, Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar](#)



## <World Wide Web Watch>

Forestry Index

<http://forestryindex.net/>

A directory of web based resources for woodland owners, as well as a reference source for accountants, attorneys, consulting foresters and other professionals who work with timberland owners by answering specific questions of all natures of forestry & Natural Resources.

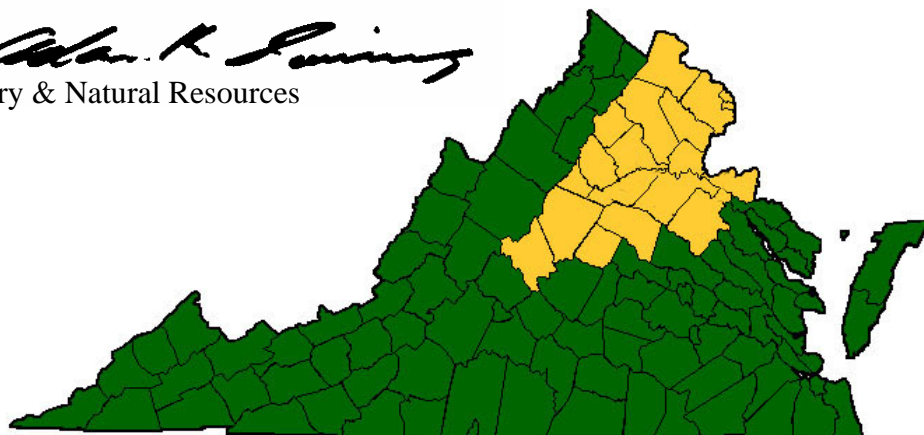


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To: Citizens, Landowners, and Natural resource professionals

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