

# INCOME ALTERNATIVES FOR WOODLOT OWNERS CONFERENCE

## Graves Mountain Lodge

Syria, VA

April 15-16, 2005

### What this conference is about:

There are over 12 million acres of privately-owned woodlands in Virginia. The single greatest source of income for these forest landowners is sale of timber. There are, however, many other ways to earn money out in the woods besides sale of trees for lumber. This conference program provides both classroom and field instruction concerning a number of enterprises that landowners can establish in the "back forty".

We have several outstanding speakers. Paul Easley, owner of Oak Leaf Wood 'N Supplies in Illinois has developed an incredible wood products business from his 17 acres of hardwood trees. He gains maximum income from every tree by selling blocks of walnut suitable for making gunstocks, duck call blanks, bolls and knots suitable for carving wooden bowls, dulcimer wood, blocks of poplar that can be used for turning lamp bases on a lathe and hundreds of other specialty wood products. He cuts his trees himself and saws them on his own portable sawmill. He sells his specialty wood products all over the U. S.

Brooks Mills also harvests trees himself from his 440 acre Edgewood Tree Farm in Maine. He believes in Crop Tree Management which is timber stand improvement taken to the highest level. He uses careful cutting operations to regenerate, thin and improve the stands and markets every tree cut for its highest value. With 11 years in investment business and 28 seasons preparing income tax returns, Mr. Mills is well aware of the many financial and tax aspects of forestry management. A constant by-product of his Crop Tree Management program is firewood. Brooks Mills will describe a financial plan for marketing valuable saw logs, veneer logs and firewood that generates much more income per acre from forestry than most woodlot owners realize.

We have Scott Persons, author of American Ginseng: Green Gold, who is recognized around the world as a leading expert in production of woods-grown and wild-simulated ginseng. With a current price of \$350.00 per pound of dried roots, many Virginia landowners should consider growing this native plant.

Dr. Larry Stritch, Senior Botanist with the USDA Forest Service from West Virginia will help us identify many species of herbaceous plants.

There will also be quite a bit of instruction concerning forest ecology, plant identification and wildlife management. This information has commercial application for persons who might want to establish eco-tourism or agri-tourism businesses. We invite conference participants to bring their children. We have a very enjoyable educational program lined up for them. About half of the conference presentations will be held outdoors, in the woods, with active audience participation. Everyone should bring rain gear and hiking boots.

### Directions

**From Washington D.C.** - Take Interstate 66 West to Route 29 South at Gainesville. Stay on Route 29 South until 7 miles south of Culpeper. Take Right on to Route 609. Stay on Route 609 for 9 miles to a stop sign. Take Right on Route 231 North. Travel 1/2 mile. Take Left on Route 670. Travel 4 miles, Graves Mountain Lodge is on Left.

**From Front Royal, VA** - Take Route 522 South through Flint Hill. At Stop sign, take Right on Route 522/211 to Sperryville. At Sperryville, Take Left into town of Sperryville. At Flashing Red Light take Left on Route 522. Drive 1.5 miles. Take Right on Route 231 South. Drive 14 miles, Take Right on Route 670. Travel 4 miles, Graves Mountain Lodge is on Left.

**From Fredericksburg, VA** - Take Route 3 West to Culpeper. Take Route 29 South. Stay on Route 29 South until 7 miles south of Culpeper. Take Right on to Route 609. Stay on Route 609 for 9 miles to a stop sign. Take Right on Route 231 North. Travel 1/2 mile. Take Left on Route 670. Travel 4 miles, Graves Mountain Lodge is on Left.

**From Richmond, VA - (4 lane traffic to Madison)** Take Interstate 64 West to Charlottesville. Take exit 118 to Culpeper, Route 250 Bypass. Follow Route 250 to Route 29 North (Follow signs to Culpeper) Stay on Route 29 North for approx. 26 miles to Madison. Take Left on 29 Business North. Go 1 mile, take Left on Route 231 North. Stay on Route 231 North for 8 miles. Take Left on Route 670. Travel 4 miles, Graves Mountain Lodge is on Left.

**From Richmond, VA** - Take Interstate 64 West to Zion Crossroads (exit 136). Take Route 15 North through Gordonsville to Orange. Follow Route 15 through Orange, 4 miles North of Orange, Take Left on Route 230. Follow 230 for approx 14 miles to Stop sign at Route 29. Take Right on Route 29 / Route 231 North. Drive 1.5 miles. Take Left on 29 Business North. Go 1 mile, take Left on Route 231 North. Stay on Route 231 North for 8 miles. Take Left on Route 670. Travel 4 miles, Graves Mountain Lodge is on Left.

**From Charlottesville, VA** - Take Route 29 North for approx. 26 miles to Madison. Take Left on 29 Business North. Go 1 mile, take Left on Route 231 North. Stay on Route 231 North for 8 miles. Take Left on Route 670. Travel 4 miles, Graves Mountain Lodge is on Left.

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I would like to welcome all Virginia landowners to attend this  
“Income Alternatives for Woodlot Owners Conference”.

*Andy Hankins*

Andy Hankins  
Extension Specialist  
Alternative Agriculture

**Conference Agenda**

**Friday, April 15**

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Registration check-in

2:00 pm

Welcome – **Andy Hankins**  
Extension Specialist - Alternative  
Agriculture, Virginia State University

2:15 - 3:45 pm

Plenary Session  
Creating a Woodworking Business  
**Paul Easley**, Oak Leaf Wood ‘N  
Supplies, Moweaqua, Illinois

3:45 - 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 - 5:15 pm

Breakout Sessions

A. Establishing a Trout Fee Fishing  
Operation, **Dr. Scott Newton**,  
Aquaculture Research Scientist, and  
**Dr. David Crosby**, Extension Specialist,  
Fish Health Aquaculture Program,  
Virginia State University

B. USDA Cost Share Programs for  
Forest Land - Best Management  
Practices, **Jim Starr**, Virginia  
Department of Forestry,  
Charlottesville, VA

C. Chain Saws and Log Splitters -  
Operation, Safety, Maintenance,  
**Herb Reynolds**, Virginia Department of  
Forestry, Madison County, Hands on  
Field Workshop

D. Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge  
Mountains, **Larry Stritch**, Senior  
Botanist – USDA Forest Service

5:30 pm

Dinner

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Plenary Sessions

A. Improving Your Woodlot through Crop  
Tree Management, **Brooks Mills**,  
Maine Small Woodland Owners Association

B. The Raptors of Virginia  
**Brenda Tekin**, The Monticello  
Bird Club, Charlottesville, VA

**Sat., April 16**

7:30 am

Breakfast

8:30 - 10:00 am

Breakout Sessions

A. Woodland Production of American  
Ginseng, **Scott Persons**, Tuckasegee Valley  
Ginseng Tuckasegee, North Carolina

B. Shiitake Mushroom Production,  
**Andy Hankins**, Extension Specialist-Alternative  
Agriculture, Virginia State University  
Hands on workshop

C. Tree Identification/Wood Identification  
Hike, **Adam Downing** – Extension Forestry  
Agent and **Paul Easley**, Oak Leaf Wood ‘N  
Supplies

D. Specific Woodland Craft Products  
**Various craft persons**

10:00 - 10:30 am

Break with refreshments at Main Lodge

10:30 - 12:00 noon

Breakout Sessions

A. Crop Tree Management/Timber Stand  
Improvement, **Brooks Mills and Mike Eckley**  
In the woods demonstration

B. Native Plants and Invasive Plants Hike  
**Larry Stritch** - USDA Forest Service

C. Forest Land Preservation  
**Bob Miller**, Piedmont Environmental Council  
Madison County, VA

D. Beekeeping  
**David Fitzgerald**, Goochland County

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

A. Advanced Topics in Production of Ginseng  
and Goldenseal, **Scott Persons and  
Andy Hankins**

B. Portable Sawmilling and Lumber Drying  
Demonstration, **Skip Watson**, All Seasons  
Forest Equipment and **R. J. Nobblitt**

C. Foraging for Morel Mushrooms with  
**Local mushroom hunter**

D. Food Plots and Habitat Enhancement  
for Wildlife, **Joe Ferdinandsen**, Wildlife  
Biologist Assistant, Virginia Department  
of Game and Inland Fisheries

## Income Alternatives for Woodlot Owners Conference

### Youth Program

Everyone coming to this conference is invited to bring their children over 4 years of age. A local farmer named Caroline Graham is providing leadership for an educational and entertaining youth program that lasts throughout Friday afternoon, Friday evening and all day on Saturday. The youth program activities will include:

#### Friday – April 15

- 2:15 – 3:45 pm Introduction and Building Your Nature Journal, **Caroline Graham** and **Alison Hectus**
- 4:00 – 5:15 pm Wood and Tree Identification  
**Adam Downing**
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 7:00 - 8:30 pm Raptors of Virginia  
**Brenda Tekin**
- 8:30 - 9:00 pm Marshmallow Roast

#### Saturday – April 16

- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 – 10:00 am Plant Your Own Shiitake Mushroom Log  
**Andy Hankins**
- 10:00 am Break with refreshments
- 10:30 -11:30 am Fishing in Graves Mt. Lodge - Trout Pond  
**Dr. Scott Newton** and **Carl Stafford**
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:30-3:00 pm Vermicomposting with **Stephanie Gross**

The youth program includes much time outdoors, weather permitting. Please try to dress appropriately. If you have one, bring a small backpack for carrying things you collect. Fishing equipment will be provided but bring your own rod and reel if you wish. Plan on wading in the Rose River so bring an extra pair of shoes, socks and pants.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which of the following represents your principle activity.

(Please check one)

- Farmer: full-time  part-time
- Landowner
- Non-profit Organization
- Agriculture or Forestry Professional
- Other - \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee - \$60.00 (per person)**  
**Youth - \$35.00 (per child)**

Note: Registration fee includes conference materials, 1 dinner, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, and break.

Lodging at the Graves Mountain Lodge is additional @ \$40.00 per person

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Overnight guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Fee Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check/money order payable to "Virginia State University". Mail payment and registration form to:**

Virginia State University  
Attn: Andy Hankins  
Box 9081  
Petersburg, VA 23806

#### **For more information, contact:**

Andy Hankins at (804) 524-5962; fax (804) 524-5714; email: [ahankins@vsu.edu](mailto:ahankins@vsu.edu)

Registration Deadline is **April 1, 2005**

After April 1st, registration fee is \$80.00 per person for adults and \$40.00 per child. No refunds after April 12, 2005.

Note:

Anyone in need of special services or accommodations in order to participate must call in advance to make arrangements.

U.S.  
Postage

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Syria, VA

**April 15-16, 2005**



**Large Flowered Trillium**  
*Trillium grandiflorum*

Sponsored by

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Virginia State University

USDA Renewable Resources  
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Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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