

News Release

June 2026

Landowner Legacy Planning Workshops

From the Generation NEXT Program

Michael lives away from his family's fifth-generation property. His grandfather put ownership into a family-held corporate structure at about the same time as they planted pines in the old tobacco fields. The corporate structure set up ways for the cousins to make decisions together and buy out the cousins who didn't want the responsibility of maintaining the property. It hasn't always been easy, but they've held onto the land, unlike many of their neighbors. Now Michael's leading the effort to put a conservation easement on the land and update the LLC operating agreement for the next generation.

Not every family is as well prepared to keep their land intact, rural, and in their family as Michael's. Many people don't have a written estate plan or even a testamentary will; others have a written plan but have not done the critical legacy-building work of sharing their plans, goals, and love of the land with their heirs. This leaves younger generations in a tough spot and puts farm and forestland at risk of being sold, subdivided, and developed.

Generation NEXT, a Program of the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension, exists to help landowners and their families engage in legacy planning for their rural land. Registration is now open for the Program's first of three offerings in 2026. All workshops include presentations from legal, financial, and conservation experts and a copy of the award-winning workbook *Legacy Planning: A Guide for Virginia Landowners*.

Warrenton Workshop: A full day workshop on Saturday, July 25th, with dinner the night before. Participants will hear from an attorney, financial expert, natural resource specialist, family dynamics advisor, and others. Fee: \$90 for the first two family members, \$10 each additional. Includes dinner, light breakfast, and lunch.
REGISTRATION OPEN!

South Boston Workshop: A full day workshop on Saturday, September 19th (tentative). Details pending.

Suffolk Workshop: Two evening sessions on Thursdays, November 5th & 12th (tentative). Details pending.

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Learn more, download fliers and other resources, or register on the [Generation NEXT website](#). Contact Karen Snape, Extension Associate, at 540-231-6494 or ksnape@vt.edu with any questions, including accessibility requests.



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