



W FORESTRY News

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

MISSION:

"We Protect and Develop Healthy, Sustainable Forest Resources for Virginians."

OLD TRENDS RENEWED

Submitted by Chuck Hutsell, Regional Forester, Region 5

Particularly with the absence of personnel camps, a thought was to bring back the idea of joint regional meetings. We use to do these on an annual basis back a few decades ago.

This fall, during September, Regions 5 and 6 renewed fellowship and learned together at a joint meeting at Hungry Mother State Park in Smyth County, Virginia. The meeting was a two-day event featuring a day of information and programs by Human Resources, Forest Management, Information Technology and others outside the agency.

The second day was spent outside with stations set up for training. Each person was assigned to a group and each group started at a particular station and rotated on a timed basis. The stations provided training in chainsaw safety and operation, pump operations, tractor training with the new JD 450H, and a refresher in fire shelter deployment.

I believe the pictures indicate both the interest and attitude of the participants. Everyone learn something, even us old guys (I can speak for myself on this). A big thanks to all for organizing and for those instructors at the different events. You did a great job! Hope to see some other regions follow suit in the upcoming year and step up to the challenge! It was not only educational, but fun!!

Stuart Sours, Technician, teaches chainsaw safety and operations.



David Cooper, Technician, teaches pump and hose lay operations with the Hummer and Mark 3.



**Carl Garrison,
State Forester**

**Janet Muncy,
Editor**

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*Region 5 and 6
joint meeting,
Fall 2004,
Hungry
Mother State
Park.*



Jim Garner Retires

AS STATE FORESTER



Jim Garner



Throughout the Commonwealth, Virginians have Jim Garner to thank for his efforts to preserve and protect forestland, as well as increase and develop this resource for Virginians.

A Virginia native, Jim was born in Amherst County in 1935 to Odell Miller and Jim Garner, Sr. As a boy growing up in a rural area, Garner often hunted, fished, and camped.

The "poor old country boy from Amherst" entered Virginia Tech in 1953 and served in the ROTC for four years. Initially studying Engineering, Garner followed a friend's suggestion to take some forestry classes. He graduated with a degree in Forestry and Wildlife.

Prior to graduation, Jim Garner wed Mary Stewart and together they had two children: David, who was lost in a boating accident, and a daughter, Stewart Ann. She is married to Dr. Serge Depret-Guillaume and they have two children, Maggie and James.

Jim joined the Virginia Division of Forestry in 1958 as a Trainee in Tappahannock. This first step in his career led to future assignments as Gloucester County Forester and, in Farmville, Management Chief. He remembers working long days, saying, "we didn't know what a clock was. We worked until we finished the job."

Garner left Farmville to become the Assistant Chief of Applied Research in Charlottesville, where he worked with Tom Dierauf. "I learned a lot from him – it was like going back to school." From here he moved up to Assistant Chief of Forest Management, covering Reforestation of Timberlands, then Deputy State Forester. He was appointed State Forester on July 1, 1983.

Jim Garner is proud of many things from his forty-six year career. In addition to his development of the aerial spray program and Forestry's new Central Office building, Garner is most proud of DOF's employees. "Most of the good ideas for the agency have come from the people," he said. During his eight years of service on the board of the Nature Conservancy, Garner helped found the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. The institute continues to grow and recently recognized him for "Visionary Leadership."

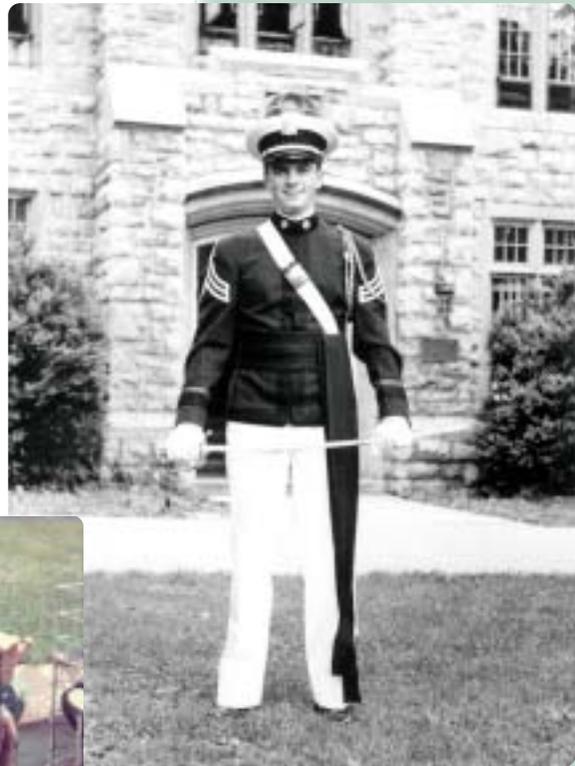
Jim Garner didn't watch the clock in his personal life either. His busy pace included serving as both a deacon and elder in the Presbyterian Church, serving as District Governor and member of the Ruritan Club, coaching Little League, and being a Boy Scout Leader. He is especially proud of the role he and his scouts played in marking the channel for the entire length of the Dragon River Swamp.

As a member of the Float Fisherman of Virginia, Garner has helped this organization designate more "Scenic Rivers" in Virginia through his leadership as their vice president and president.

In retirement, Garner is sure to continue his full schedule. We wish him well, and hope he allows himself some time to be a "singer of simple songs."



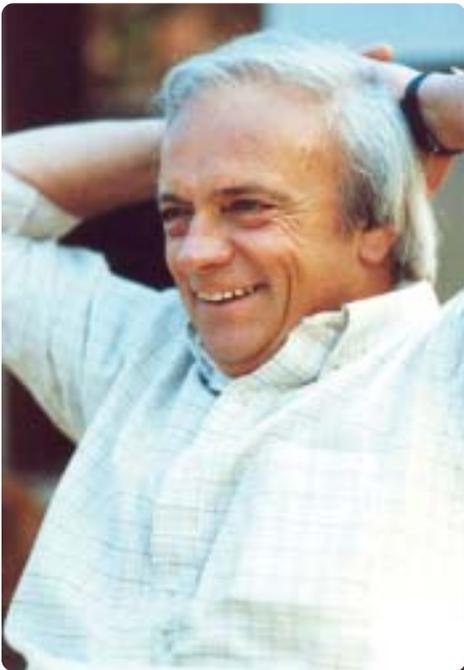
Jim at age 7.



Jim as a cadet.



*Jim and Stewart Ann
enjoy a little fishing.*



A little relaxin'.



*Jim contemplates the
future of our forests.*



*Jim with the kids,
Stewart Ann and David.*

Fire FOCUS

BLUE RIDGE WILDFIRE PREVENTION

*Submitted by Steve Counts, Regional
Resource Specialist, Region 6*



The Department of Forestry sponsored a Wildfire Prevention Event on October 9th, 2004 at Mile Post 213 of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Steve Counts, Regional Resource Specialist from Region 6 organized the event. Participating agencies and personnel were: Virginia Department of Forestry, Steve Counts, Steve Shelley, and William Worrell; North Carolina Forest Service, Hunter Birkhead and Michael Choate, Mike Anderson; National Park Service, Peter Schula; U.S. Forest Service, Harold Sutherland and Zack Pennington; and the Galax City Fire Department.

Displays of wildland fire equipment including wildland engines, tractor plow units, and ATV's. Smokey the Bear was also on hand to greet and shake hands with the children.

This event was the first of its kind involving these agencies. It was a great success and plans are being made to get together for another event next year.

SOUTHWEST FIRE ACADEMY A SUCCESS

*Submitted by Steve Counts, Regional
Resource Specialist, Region 6*

We held our Fall Southwest Fire Academy at Hungry Mother Park. Seventy-three students took part in five separate classes including: S-130/S-190, S-212 Chainsaw, S-131 Squad Boss, S-133 Refresher, and Mountain Tractor Training. This was the largest Academy so far and we had students from as far away as Alabama and South Carolina.

Thank you to all of the instructors who gave time to make this year such a success.

PULASKI HUMMER PLACES SECOND

*Submitted by David Cooper,
Technician, Region 5*

The Pulaski Hummer won a second place trophy in the Brush Truck Division at the Pearisburg Fire Prevention Parade on October 2, 2004. James Fleshman, Pulaski County part-time firefighter, drove the Hummer in the parade and Roger Simpkins II, Giles County part-time firefighter, played Smokey.

GOOD OLD DOF INGENUITY

*Submitted by Rick Butler, Forester,
Region 4*

October is a busy month in Appomattox County with National Fire Prevention Week, Railroad festival and Smokey Bear Programs. This year was no different with the exception of an added twist. Appomattox is unique in that we have one primary school with grades Kindergarten through second grade. Instead of the usual auditorium game, Smokey makes an appearance in each classroom and every child who promises to be his helper and not play with fire is allowed to shake Smokey's paw or give him a hug. This is very effective as the following day Smokey is in the Railroad Festival Parade, which reinforces our fire prevention message. In setting up the program this year, the principal stated that Smokey could not visit until Forester Butler could sing the Smokey Bear song to her. She had learned it as a child and proceeded to sing it to me at that time. Determined to present the program, Forester Butler learned the song (he already knew the first verse). On the day of the program, he proceeded to skip down the hall holding Smokey Bear's paw singing the song. The principal was satisfied and the kids were thrilled. Many thanks to Jim Jarvis who helped out during that busy week!

Smokey's 60th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Pulaski County celebrated Smokey's sixtieth birthday with two big events during August. Shelor Motor Mile Speedway hosted the first event on August 7th. The crowd of almost 5,000 celebrated Smokey's birthday and enjoyed a fine night of stock car racing. The Children on hand were treated to cupcakes to celebrate with Smokey, donated by the speedway, plus a lot of give away items such as water bottles, rulers, magnets and other valuable Smokey items. Smokey had the privilege of serving as Grand Marshal for the race.

The New River Valley Fairgrounds was the site of the next party for Smokey. On August 28th, the third annual Pulaski County Public Safety day was held. The day honored Smokey's sixtieth birthday. The festivities started with a parade through the town of Dublin, with Smokey serving as Grand Marshal. After the parade, the entourage moved to the fairgrounds. Smokey was in circulation for the young and old alike to greet, hug and wish him a Happy Birthday. Fred Turck provided the Plinko game and gifts such as water bottles, iron on transfers, and baseballs for prizes. The Pulaski Hummer, Giles Transport/Tractor unit and approximately 50 other fire and rescue units were on hand for the visitors to enjoy.

A special thanks goes to those who manned the booths and played Smokey that made these events possible: Hope Tyzinski, Todd Kready, Tom Smith, Chris Thomsen, Dennis Anderson and Jim Clark from the DOF. Pulaski County part-time firefighters assisting were James Fleshman, Jimmy Holcomb, Brent Foltz and Mike Kesling. From the Giles County crew, Roger Simpkins, Roger Simpkins II and Justin Mills. Bobby Lorton, Pulaski County Sheriff's Department also helped out.



Smokey's Song THE TRADITION CONTINUES

Submitted by Rick Butler, Forester, Region 4

A special thanks goes out to newly arrived Appomattox County Technician Dave Houttieker. Dave informed me that Gwynn Tyler plays the Smokey Bear song at the Buckingham County Day parade. I thought this was a great idea and decided to try to do this for the Railroad Festival Parade. The Railroad Festival is the biggest annual event in Appomattox County and the parade kicks off the two-day celebration. Attendance usually ranges from 25,000 to 35,000 people and is a great way to get our message to the public. I was able to persuade my wife to download the song and burn it to a disk. She did this with help from her nephew who lives in Houston, Texas (due to my lack of computer skills, I consider this a great achievement of modern technology). I was then able to play it on a CD player keeping the microphone open using a rubber band. The experiment was a huge success and made for a very impressive float. The only drawback was that after five minutes, the marching band in front of our float was keeping time with our music and not the Band Director. The kindergarten students contributed to our decorations by making a banner celebrating Smokey's 60th birthday. Many Thanks to Gwynn Tyler for this idea!

Attached TO A TREE



I can imagine quite a few of the DOF folks in the county offices have, at some point, gotten a call from a landowner concerning just a single tree and what to do with it. Usually this tree is a rather old, large, scarred hardwood with an interesting history. In quite a few cases, the tree in question is partially rotted, somewhat hollow, has weathered many storms, and has witnessed many generations of family history. The landowner says the tree has been on the farm as long as anyone can remember, or the tree was planted long ago by an ancestor. Now the landowner is pretty distraught because the old tree has been blown over in a storm, and it is a "true shame" to not use the wood or preserve the history of the tree in some way. In most cases there really isn't much advice to give. Wood from a tree such as this generally isn't suitable for sawing into usable lumber, and sometimes it's difficult to find someone with a portable mill willing to do the sawing. You might be tempted to say, "use it for firewood," but you don't want to do that... the landowner is much too sensitive... after all, that tree was like a family member.

Allow me to suggest another bit of advice to give to that distraught landowner... have a piece of the historic old tree turned into a **work of art**. Chesapeake Woodart by Robert Lentz does just that. Bob specializes in crafting wooden sculpture and turned vessels from trees that have had special meaning in the lives of their owners. The history of the tree as it relates to family history, or the history of the property, is documented. Then part of the tree is used to create an object with a freeform natural appearance. Imperfections and defects in the wood, along with bark and knots are blended into the overall design. Some of the worst looking wood lying on the ground in the landowners yard can be turned into works of art with truly beautiful figures, colors, and contrasting lines.

Since the living tree was viewed as a sort of living family heirloom, having a part of the dead or dying tree transformed into an heirloom of another kind may be appealing. The tree lives on in another form... a titled and signed work of art. Accompanying the piece will be a certificate that presents the history of that individual tree, along with insight into naming the art. Inquiries may be directed to Robert Lentz, 13477 Evans Farm Lane, Pungoteague, VA 23422. Phone: (757) 442-4295, and rlentz@intercom.net. Check in your local area for other wood art artisans who can provide similar works of art.

DOF's Type 1 ICS Team

Incident Commander – Richard Thomas
Safety Officer – Steve Counts
Information Officer – Fred Turck
Liaison Officer – John Pemberton
Charlie Becker
Operations Chief – Larry Cochran
Plans Chief – Janet Muncy
Finance Chief – Sandra Stephens
Logistics Chief – Dave Snyder
State Fire Manager – John Miller

INCIDENT COMMAND TEAM SUCCESS

I'd like to share a DOF success story. DOF is now recognized nationally as having a Type 1 qualified "short" Incident Command Team for all-risk incident management. A short team includes only the Command and General Staff Functions and includes the core functional positions.

This is a result of years of practical experience as well as extensive formal training which culminated in September with the team passing the Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) in Pennsylvania. Only 4 of the 5 teams at CIMC passed, and the DOF team was recognized for being the most proficient team during the week.

So what does this mean for DOF?

All of DOF should take pride in the fact that we are now nationally qualified and recognized for our abilities in Incident Command, an important emergency role for DOF right here in the Commonwealth. It does not mean that we will be looking to send these folks out west every summer from here on out, although it does strengthen our role here in Virginia and it could mean that DOF may be looked to for all-risk incident command team assistance within the Southeast or Northeast compacts as emergencies arise. Also, with the nationwide push for all emergency response organizations to go to the ICS system, this just further cements DOF as the true leader in ICS here in Virginia, and trust me, plenty of others are chomping at our heels to take the baton from us if they could.

Starting them Young

IN VIRGINIA BEACH

Submitted by Scott Bachman, Forester, Region 1

The Department of Forestry was once again invited to participate in the Virginia Beach Farm Days.

Farms days are held at the Virginia Beach Farmers Market each year for all second grade students in the City of Virginia Beach. Students are transported to the site by bus and introduced to agriculture in the City of Virginia Beach. Students learn about row crops like corn, soybeans, peanuts and cotton. Students also visit with bee keepers, dairy farmers, a therapeutic riding program, and Virginia Farm Credit to name a few.

The Department of Forestry stop explains to students that farmers grow other crops than the ones they will visit on their farm day tour. They also grow crops of trees. We are able to talk about many of the products we get from trees including clean air to breath, clean water to drink and wildlife habitat. We also talk to the second graders about the benefits of urban forests. Nearly every student recognizes that trees provide shade for them on our hot sultry summer days.

Finally in our ten minutes with the school children (and some of their parents!), we talk about forest fires and fire prevention. We show the students some of our firefighting equipment and how they can be a firefighter at home and help Smokey Bear. The last thing the students do before leaving our station is to recite Smokey's famous creed: Only you can prevent forest fires.

By the end of the day, all the youngsters (Cody included) head home with a basket full of new information. They now know that corn flakes do not come from a factory. They really come from the fertile fields of Virginia Beach and other agricultural areas. Trees are one more agricultural crop to be harvested and planted, and that the books they read at school really do grow from trees!

By the time this reaches your home, Jack, Cody and Scott will have also had Farm Days for the City of Chesapeake and the City of Suffolk second grade students.



Cody Daniels asks if students can tell him what things we get from trees.



Jack Kauffman and Cody Daniels speak to a group of second grade students at the Virginia Beach Farm Day.



POLANT RECEIVES AWARD FROM FBI

Submitted by Chuck Hutsell, Regional Forester, Region 5

Pictured is Laura Polant, Technician from Region 5, receiving an award from Chuck Hutsell during a joint regional meeting between Regions 5 and 6. The award was given to Laura by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and signed by Director Phillip Mueller. Laura was instrumental in getting criminals convicted for conspiracy and mail fraud doing illegal business (timber theft) in Floyd County. They are presently in prison serving their time. Great job Laura, you deserve a pat on the back!

Employee SPOTLIGHT

WHO IS THIS ED ZIMMER GUY ANYWAY?

*Submitted by Toni Sanderson, Assistant
Regional Forester, Region 1*



Following an exhaustive search, Region 1 is now home to a new Regional Forester, Ed Zimmer. Ed comes to the DOF from Aconcagua Timber Corporation (formerly Nevamar, formerly International Paper, formerly Union Camp Corporation...) where he was the Purchasing Manager.

Ed hails from Maryland; after high school he did a stint working for Uncle Sam in the Army where he spent some time overseas, mainly in Germany. Once his duty was done, Ed then decided to further his education so he enrolled in West Virginia University where he would study to be a forester. Ed earned his degree and later would receive an MBA from Averett University.

So Ed goes to work for Union Camp Corporation (eventually International Paper, eventually Nevamar, eventually Aconcagua...) where he learns the ropes of procurement and purchasing. I got to know Ed during his tenure as Tree Farm Chair - he was kind enough to railroad me... I mean, volunteer me to serve as Chair also (by now I think the payback is complete).

Ed became a member of the DOF family when he served as Chairman of the Reforestation of Timberlands Board. From there, it was just a short step to the Regional Forester job in Region 1.

We're glad to have him here. Ed knew most of us in the Region before he came to work. He knows his way around the Region (and is learning his way around the State...) and he has lots of contacts close by.

Ed and his wife Terri have four children - Courtney, Jack, Zeke and Joel. They live in Courtland, right down the street from the DOF office.

Already Ed has been to some meetings and trainings, so lots of you have had the chance to meet him. Please take the time to say hello and welcome Ed to the DOF - you'll be glad you did. So here's my official welcome to Ed of the East. The #1 Regional Forester for the #1 Region.

BILL PERRY, REGION 3

*Submitted by Barbara White, Assistant
Regional Forester, Region 3*



The Fluvanna County office in Region 3 has a new Forest Technician. Bill Perry is from Bedford County and is a 2003 graduate from Virginia Tech where he earned a Bachelors degree in Forestry. Bill's work experience includes working three years with the National Park Service and nearly six years of experience as an arborist in the Roanoke Valley.

Bill's wife, Ricki, will be attending UVA this summer to obtain her Masters degree in Education so that she can pursue a career as an elementary or high school guidance counselor.

As with most Foresters in his region, Bill enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time enjoying the natural world that surrounds him. Bill also enjoys keeping air-cooled Volkswagens running and on the road, and traveling in their own 1972 VW camper.

Bill Perry is proud to be one of the Department of Forestry's new employees and is looking forward to fulfilling the vision and mission of the DOF throughout his career.

It would be interesting to know what hobbies and interests other DOF employees out there might have. Maybe I can start a trend... here it goes.

My hobby sort of fits in with the character of Region 1 (the best Region in the DOF)... lots of marsh, flooded timber, guts, lowlands. Where these features are found, waterfowl can be found... lots of 'em. Duck decoys have been used for centuries to lure these birds in for food and sport. In the days before the arrival of English settlers, Indian hunters used duck decoys fashioned from marsh grass and feathers. The settlers observed these decoys being used, and began to hand carve their own from wood. By the late 1800's quite a few decoy carvers were supplying decoys to market hunters, sport hunters, and hunt clubs established in the Chesapeake Bay area... especially on the Eastern Shore. Over time, decoy carving became part of hunting tradition and culture, which brings us back to my hobby, carving and painting duck decoys by hand the same way the old – timers did it. I'd say most boys growing up hunting waterfowl on the Eastern Shore try decoy carving at some point. In most cases carving is dropped... in my case it stuck, and I've been making decoys to hunt over for around 21 years.

The patterns used to begin each carving were traced from ducks bagged over several hunting seasons. The only power tool used is a band saw. After that all work is done with hatchet, spokeshave, knife, and rasp. Painting is done with ordinary oil-based paint from the hardware store. All lead ballast weights and anchors are poured by hand, and each decoy is test floated and weighted to right itself in rough water.

The best part of making these decoys is actually getting to use them for hunting. Watching them float around in front of the blind, and of course, fooling waterfowl and watching them drop into a rig of handmade decoys really makes it all worthwhile.

E. N. "Bobby" Atkins retired after 38 years in Lunenburg County. Atkins began his career in 1966 as Chief Forest Warden for Lunenburg and has seen a lot of changes since those days. He vividly remembers his first week with the Department of Forestry. Working with then County Forester, Bill Haag, they spent the entire week marking pulpwood. He was almost ready to go back to the shoe factory, but decided to stay and many landowners and coworkers have benefited from his efforts.

Based on county records, Atkins has encouraged and participated in the reforestation of over 63,000 acres, which included the handling of over 40 million pine seedlings. More recently, as Lunenburg Technician, Atkins checked over 200 harvesting operations, working with loggers in preventing water quality problems.

His reputation, throughout Southside Virginia, for entertaining as well as educational Smokey programs has spanned several generations. The "Smokey the Bear" song won't be the same without him!

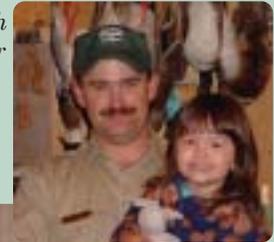
Throughout his career, Atkins was especially dedicated to fire suppression and investigation. He responded to countless fire calls, often in the middle of the night, on weekends and holidays. His relentless investigation of fire starts helped to solve and prosecute arson cases. He has served on the Region 4 arson investigation team and represented his coworkers as a member of the Department of Forestry Honor Guard. Although it is hard for him to leave all of these responsibilities behind, he is looking forward to not being "on call" during fire weather for the first time in 38 years.

Needless to say, Atkins' experience and dedication will be missed here in Lunenburg and throughout the state. Even more so, we'll miss his upbeat attitude and traditional values, which always gave coworkers and associates a reason to smile, even through the smoke.

ROBBIE LEWIS, REGION 1

*Submitted by Robbie Lewis,
Forester, Region 1*

*Robbie with
daughter
Skye.*



"HAPPY TRAILS" BOBBY ATKINS

*Submitted by Gale Washburn,
Forester, Region 4*



Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

The Governor has appointed a new State Forester. Please welcome **Carl Garrison** as the sixth State Forester of Virginia. As many of you know, Carl worked in the (old) Portsmouth Region as the Assistant Regional Forester prior to his departure to start a forestry consulting company. Carl returned to the DOF and has been serving as the Regional Forester in Region 3. As you can see, Carl is certainly no stranger to the organization and he has an outstanding understanding of the operations and programs of the DOF. Welcome Carl as our State Forester.

Bill Jordan is our new Equipment Repair Technician for Region 1 and the Garland Gray Forestry Center. Bill comes to us with over 30 years of experience as a mechanic. He also has training and experience as a firefighter. His last position was Equipment Mechanic for the Roanoke Regional Airport.

Chad Austin is the new Grayson County Technician in Region 6. He has a B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife from Virginia Tech and has worked as an Assistant Procurement Forester for Dixon Lumber Company. He mostly worked at Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company.

Justin Barnes is the new FIA Forester for Region 2. He is a Virginia Tech graduate and was most recently a Procurement Forester for Blackwater Transport in Franklin.

Jeff Hensley is the new Trades Utilities Mechanic at Central Office. He holds HVAC certification and has worked in the maintenance field for many years. Most recently, he has been running his own HVAC service business in Charlottesville.

Lisa Krajewski is our new Henrico County Forester in Region 2. She received her Forestry degree from SUNY in New York. Her most recent job was GIS Foreman for Osmose, Inc, in New York. She has also worked as a Consulting Utility Forester for Davey Tree, Inc., in California.

William Perry is our new Fluvanna County Technician in Region 3. William has his Forestry degree from Virginia Tech. He has previously worked for the National Park Service as a Forestry Technician and a

Maintenance Worker. Most recently, he was an Arborist with a tree service company.

Michael Santucci is returning to DOF as the Forester for Madison County in Region 3. He received his Bachelor's degree from SUNY in New York. He started his career with DOF as a Forester Trainee and then moved into a county Forester position in Region 1. He left us in late 1997. Most recently, he has been working for the North Dakota Forest Service.

Karen Snape is the new King George and Stafford County Forester in Region 2. She received a Bachelor's degree in Biology/Ecology from Juniata College in Pennsylvania. She received Master's degrees in Resource Ecology and Forest Resource Management from Duke University. She held various Forestry related positions at Duke while she was working on her degrees.

Erik Filep is our new Louisa County Technician. He has a B.S. in Natural Resource Recreation with a minor in Forestry from Virginia Tech. Erik has most recently worked for Bartlett Tree Experts. While in college, he had summer positions working for the U.S. Forest Service and the Alaska State Parks.

Chad Stover is our new Rockingham County Technician. He has an A.A.S. in Forestry Technology from Dabney Lancaster Community College. Chad has served as a part-time firefighter in Rockingham County for the past eight years and is active in his local volunteer fire department. He comes to us from Martin's Native Lumber in Dayton.

Jason Upton is the new Regional Technician for Region 1, stationed in Waverly. Jason has worked as a part-time tractor operator for the Garland-Gray Forestry Center. He most recently worked as a mechanic and was self-employed as a farmer. He has completed coursework in basic firefighting, agricultural machinery repair, and welding.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES:

John Houchins, Technician for New Kent and Charles City, resigned to accept a position as an Environmental Analyst with a consulting firm in Washington, D.C. We wish John the best in his new endeavor.

E.N. "Bobby" Atkins, Technician, Lunenburg County, Region 4 retired after 38 years of service with the Virginia Department of Forestry. Bobby spent his entire career in Lunenburg County and is "one of the most respected names and recognized faces in Lunenburg County." Best wishes for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement!

MOVERS & SHAKERS:

Jessica Parker, Administrative Specialist for the front desk at Central Office, accepted the Fiscal Technician position. Congratulations to Jessica!

H.F. Jones has returned to his position of Regional Technician for Region 6. For the past 6 years, H.F. has temporarily covered the Russell County Technician position. Thanks to H.F. for stepping in to help and for serving so long in the position.

Justin Hancock, Forester for Tazewell County in Region 6, is transferring into the Greensville Forester position in Region 1. We wish Justin well in his new position.

Dean Cumbia, Assistant Regional Forester in Region 2, has accepted the position of Forest Management Chief. Dean assumes this post effective November 10. Congratulations, Dean!

NEW ARRIVALS:

Chad Austin, Region 3, and his wife, Janie, became parents to a son born November 9.

CONDOLENCES:

Steve Hoffman, former Board of Forestry member, on the loss of his mother, Thelma Cornwell, at age 78 in October.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

November 24 offices close at 1pm

November 25-26 offices closed

December 23 office close at 1pm

December 24 offices closed

December 31 offices closed

Nature Trail AT CENTRAL OFFICE

Submitted by James Starr, Forest Management, Central Office

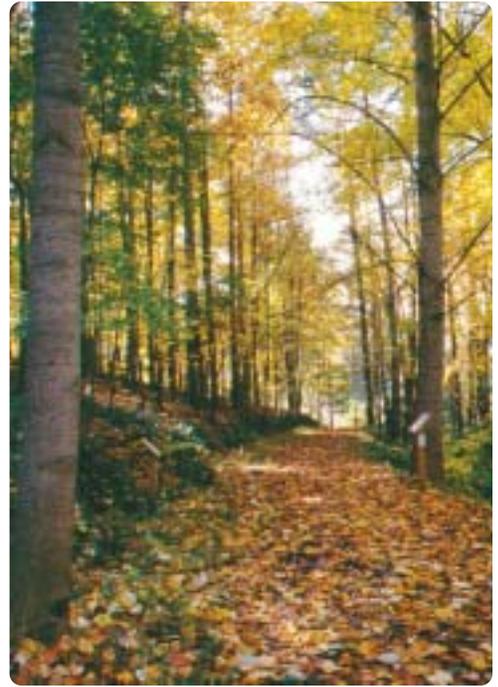
The nature trail around the DOF Central Office has been upgraded and has stops which are correlated to the Standards of Learning (SOLs). A booklet has been printed which describes 54 stops on the trail and how they illustrate a specific SOL. The stops are identified by a 4 x 4 post with a number.

The mile long trail passes along streams and through upland and bottomland hardwood forest and pine forest of different ages. At least 30 species of trees can be found and over a 100 bird species have been documented.

The Central Office is visited by numerous home schooled groups wanting information on natural resources. With a shortage of personnel to lead these groups, the hope was to make the trail self-guided. Also, since it is harder to get into many schools with a program, because of SOL requirements, this trail is another tool that will reach some youth with a conservation message and they can also get SOL credits.

The guide book is available on our web site. Our hope is to provide a guide book that can be down loaded as a sample for others to create guide books correlated to SOLs for existing trails.

The guide books are available in a box at the trail head and from the receptionist. List of known birds and trees will soon be added.



Our thanks to Diana Foster, who authored the guide book, Janet Muncy for layout and production, David Queen for equipment assistance, Ephraim and Madison for working with Starr to install the posts, and the Rivanna Trail Club for maintenance.

If any retirees or others in the Charlottesville area would be interested in volunteering to lead school groups on a guided hike around our forestry nature trail, please let us know.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Keith P. Brown (CO) ~ Jan. 5
 Phil T. Grimm (CO) ~ Jan. 7
 Jesse L. Rivers (GG) ~ Jan. 7
 J. David Cooper (R5) ~ Jan. 10
 Richard K. Steensma (R2) ~ Jan. 12
 James B. Timberlake (Ret) ~ Jan. 12
 Jon A. Willoughby (R5) ~ Jan. 13
 Janet R. Muncy (CO) ~ Jan. 14
 Thomas W. Zaebst (SF) ~ Jan. 14
 Neal T. Oberholtzer (R4) ~ Jan. 15
 T. Kem Pace (R5) ~ Jan. 15
 Sandra K. Stephens (R3) ~ Jan. 15
 Mary L. Mead (Ret) ~ Jan. 16
 John A. Brooks (R2) ~ Jan. 17
 Todd A. Kready (R5) ~ Jan. 17

Matthew H. Coleman (R2) ~ Jan. 19
 Alan T. Sutherlin (R2) ~ Jan. 19
 Alan D. Craft (R5) ~ Jan. 20
 Hope H. Tyzinski (R5) ~ Jan. 20
 Rita D. Moore (CO) ~ Jan. 21
 Donald R. Jamerson (NK) ~ Jan. 22
 Trent G. Badgley (CO) ~ Jan. 24
 Angela R. Brown (CO) ~ Jan. 25
 David H. Terwilliger (R2) ~ Jan. 25
 Terrance J. Lasher (R2) ~ Jan. 26
 E. Edward Stoots (R6) ~ Jan. 28
 Rodger L. Moyers (R3) ~ Jan. 29
 D. David Snyder (R4) ~ Jan. 30
 Carolyn S. Morris (R4) ~ Jan. 31
 David J. Houttekier (R4) ~ Feb. 1
 Ricky A. Butler (R4) ~ Feb. 2
 Joseph P. Hancock (Ret) ~ Feb. 2
 Laura M. Polant (R5) ~ Feb. 3
 M. Bruce Thacker (SF) ~ Feb. 7

A. John Wright (R5) ~ Feb. 7
 Janet W. Barr (R6) ~ Feb. 9
 Roger C. Roberts (Ret) ~ Feb. 9
 B. Blair Dalton (R4) ~ Feb. 12
 Robert L. Miles (Ret) ~ Feb. 12
 Neva H. Hodges (CO) ~ Feb. 13
 Connie H. Young (GG) ~ Feb. 13
 Edward L. Embrey (R3) ~ Feb. 15
 John D. Miller (CO) ~ Feb. 16
 George L. Nelson (CO) ~ Feb. 17
 William L. Saunders (Ret) ~ Feb. 21
 M. Barbara White (R3) ~ Feb. 22
 Robert C. Kennedy (R5) ~ Feb. 24
 William R. Miller (R6) ~ Feb. 24
 Samuel H. Austin (CO) ~ Feb. 25
 Martha E. D. Warring (R3) ~ Feb. 26
 Jason A. Braunstein (CO) ~ Feb. 27
 Douglas E. Audley (R4) ~ Feb. 29
 Bradley W. Carico (R6) ~ Mar. 1

Dwight H. Stallard (GG) ~ Mar. 2
 Jay S. Bassett (R1) ~ Mar. 3
 Gregory P. O'Donnell (CO) ~ Mar. 3
 Rodney W. Keenon (Ret) ~ Mar. 4
 Phyllis F. Carruthers (Ret) ~ Mar. 6
 Karen E. Stanley (R5) ~ Mar. 6
 John W. Kauffman (R1) ~ Mar. 7
 James W. Harris (Ret) ~ Mar. 10
 Gary A. Heiser (SF) ~ Mar. 12
 G. Shannon Lewis (R4) ~ Mar. 13
 Harold A. Fisher (R3) ~ Mar. 14
 Richard D. Reuse (R2) ~ Mar. 15
 Deborah M. Howe (CO) ~ Mar. 18
 Bruce D. Harmon (R3) ~ Mar. 19
 David E. Queen (CO) ~ Mar. 21
 Richard Holman (SF) ~ Mar. 23
 R. Barry Crawford (R5) ~ Mar. 25
 Hylton J.G. Haynes (R4) ~ Mar. 26
 Michael C. Womack (SF) ~ Mar. 29

Mail Bag



FUNNIES

Here are actual error messages seen on computer screens in Japan. Some are written in Haiku. Aren't these better than, "Your computer has performed an illegal operation"?

~
Chaos reigns within.
Reflect, repent, and reboot.
Order shall return.

~
Program aborting:
Close all that you have worked on.
You ask far too much.

~
Windows NT crashed.
I am the Blue Screen of Death.
No one hears your screams.

~
Yesterday it worked.
Today it is not working.
Windows is like that.

~

~
The Web site you seek
cannot be located, but
countless more exist.

~
A crash reduces
your expensive computer
to a simple stone.

~
Three things are certain:
Death, taxes and lost data.
Guess which has occurred?

~
Having been erased,
The document you're seeking
must now be retyped.

~

Contacts AND INFORMATION

Submit articles by email. Simple text is best. Color photos, slides, negatives, or high quality digital photos are all acceptable. Clearly label photos including who to return them to.

**Submit articles to:
Janet Muncy, Editor**

janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov

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Fall Issue -- August 1, 2005

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Charlottesville, Virginia 22903**

please notify of address corrections