



FORESTRY *ews*

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

NEW RIVER-HIGHLANDS RC&D COUNCIL RECEIVES \$200,000 STEVENS AMENDMENT GRANT

Submitted by William Worrell, RC&D Forester, Region 6

The New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) signed a grant agreement with the Virginia Department of Forestry for \$200,000 in fire prevention funds. The funds come through the USDA Forest Service fire program under the Stevens Amendment. The funds will be used to help homeowners make their homes safer from forest fires. Anyone residing in the 11-county RC&D area can apply for financial assistance. To be eligible, homes must be within three miles of a National Forest boundary. Prevention measures will include fuel reduction activities to create defensible space around homes and communities. There are 83 high-risk communities in the New River-Highlands RC&D area within three miles of National Forest. This represents 35% of the high-risk communities in the RC&D area.

The project partners will include the Virginia Department of Forestry, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), New River-Highlands RC&D Council, volunteer fire departments, community groups, local governments, and planning commissions.

RC&D councils help people in rural areas plan and carry out activities to conserve natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standards of living. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to carry out activities. There are 375 RC&D Councils and 26 applicant areas nationwide. There are seven RC&D Councils and one applicant area in Virginia. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the RC&D program in America.



Jim Garner, Retired State Forester, presents the \$200,000 check to New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council for the Stevens Amendment Fuel Reduction Project. Pictured left to right: Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, NRCS; Jim Garner, Retired State Forester, Virginia Department of Forestry; Bill Damon, Retired Forest Supervisor, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests; Joe Gorman, Chairman, New River-Highlands RC&D Council.

Message

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



I can't begin to tell you how honored I am to be your new State Forester. The Virginia Department of Forestry is one of the most respected agencies in the Commonwealth and is a recognized leader nationally. This reputation didn't come easily, however. It came as a direct result of your dedication, hard work and commitment to serving the needs of our citizens. Each and every employee and retiree has had a hand in it. We were fortunate to have had the support and wisdom of Jim Garner, my predecessor, as our leader for more than 22 years.

Jim personifies all that is good about our agency. He has made an indelible mark that will never be forgotten. And, obviously, he's left some HUGE shoes to fill.

Since my appointment as State Forester on November 1st, I've tried on those shoes dozens of times. In many ways they fit just fine; in others, I prefer a different look. This is how I see my role as State Forester – to continue the many things that "fit just fine" and to add my own style in order to build upon our numerous successes. I don't want us to rest upon our many and well-deserved laurels. I want us to continue to grow professionally and personally. I want our agency to not be just one of the best, but to be the best; to raise the bar to the next level. This should be relatively easy, since we

set the bar that the others strive to attain.

Just weeks after my appointment, Governor Warner named former Delegate Robert Bloxom to a new cabinet position. As the first-ever Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry in Virginia's nearly 400-year history, Secretary Bloxom was the right choice for the job. His historic appointment is just one more indication of the vital role our agency plays in growing Virginia's economy and in protecting the state's crucial natural resources.

I invite you to join me in this quest to be the best. I welcome your input; I value your entrepreneurial spirit; and, I appreciate your efforts. Together we will reach new heights, garner new accolades, and provide unmatched customer service. The time is right; the opportunity is now.

Carl Harrison

Awards

AND ACHIEVEMENTS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Danny Roberts, Technician for Spotsylvania County in Region 2, has been selected as the next Employee of the Quarter. He was nominated by Matt Poirot, Water Quality Program Manager. In the nomination, Matt stated that Danny was instrumental in the establishment of the forestry portion of the Spotsylvania County Outdoor Classroom Project at Oakley Farm in Spotsylvania. According to Matt, this Outdoor Classroom teaches all 4th grade students in Spotsylvania about various aspects of natural resources management, and forestry has a large part in this effort. Danny was responsible for the design and installation of various demonstrations relating to forestry practices, such as BMP installation, a stream crossing (bridge with handrails), geoweb installation, riparian forest buffer description, and various points about woodland home

protection and the urban/rural interface. Danny has worked very hard over the years to make this outdoor classroom a reality. Danny's nomination was strongly supported by Dean Cumbia, former Assistant Regional Forester in Region 2. Dean states, "Danny is a very experienced and capable employee. He knows DOF programs inside and out and can operate well in all areas." Dean also stated that Danny excels in the BMP and water quality program. Dean went on to say, "Danny has been the sole DOF employee in his work area several times. He has basically carried the whole fire, water quality, and forest management programs during those times." Finally, Dean states that Danny has a high level of initiative and is very professional. Congratulations, Danny, on being named Employee of the Quarter! Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of DOF.

Longleaf PINE PLANTATIONS

Submitted by Bill Apperson, Forester, Region 2

NATIVE LONGLEAF PINE PLANTATION AT GARLAND GRAY FORESTRY CENTER

Dwight Stallard, Nurseries Superintendent; Judy Thompson, part-time longleaf employee; and Jan McGee, New Kent Forestry Center volunteer, are working on the first planting of Virginia native longleaf pine seedlings at the Garland Gray Forestry Center. The plantation is being established for future research studies and will produce native seed for longleaf seedling production.

Native longleaf pine – trees that can be identified as native without any doubt – are almost nonexistent. We now estimate less than 200 individual trees remain from a population that occupied an estimated 1,000,000 acres in Virginia when Captain John Smith landed at Jamestown.

Work to build a grafted arboretum of native longleaf pine on the Garland Gray Forestry Center is also moving ahead. Eventually, we plan to have about 900 grafted trees representing all of the native longleaf trees that we can identify still growing in Virginia. These grafted trees will also be used for studies and seed production.



Dwight Stallard, Nurseries Superintendent; Judy Thompson, part-time longleaf employee; and Jan McGee, New Kent Forestry Center volunteer, plant longleaf pine seedlings at the Garland Gray Forestry Center.

LONGLEAF PLANTATIONS IN EASTERN VIRGINIA

Progress is being made in restoring longleaf pine as there are now several longleaf plantations growing in Eastern Virginia.

One such plantation can be found on the banks of the Chickahominy River in James City County in Region 2. Wayne Bowman, Research Forester; Onesphore Bitoki, Tree Improvement Forester; and Mark Hains, Longleaf Alliance in Alabama, recently visited this longleaf plantation to evaluate its status. This plantation is six growing seasons old and was established using second generation longleaf pine seedlings from the North Carolina Forest Service. The seedlings were tube grown and planted on a spray burn site. One-year-old seedlings were used and some areas of the plantation have been burned once in the last six years.

In Middlesex County, an old field site and a cutover site, both planted by Dave Milby, are growing well. International Paper Company has a large longleaf plantation on company lands south of Franklin. One growing season old now, planting survival looks like +95% with some height growth on most seedlings the first year.

The future is looking bright for longleaf pine in Eastern Virginia.



Onesphore Bitoki, Tree Improvement Forester; Wayne Bowman, Research Forester; and Mark Hains, Longleaf Alliance in Alabama, inspect a longleaf plantation in James City County in Region 2.

Resource Information

FOCUS

NEW FACES

Submitted by John Scrivani, Resource Information Director, and John Pemberton, FIA Coordinator, Resource Information Division, Central Office



JERRE CREIGHTON



CHRIS ASARO



JOE ROSETTI

There are some new faces, some old faces welcomed back, and a bit of a shuffle in assignments in the recently renamed Resource Information Division. **John Scrivani** is now the division director, following the retirement of **Tim Tigner**. We will certainly miss Tim, and we hope that we absorbed at least some of his wisdom over the years.

Filling in John's previous research duties is **Jerre Creighton**, the new Research Program Manager; he will work closely with Wayne Bowman. Prior to coming to the VDOF, Jerre was the Manager of Silvicultural Best Practices with International Paper Company's Forest Resources Division in Savannah, Georgia. Previously, he was the Forest Health Program Manager with Champion International in Pensacola, Florida - negotiating pesticide purchase and application contracts; monitoring prescription efficiency; delivering computer-based planning, prescription and training tools. From 1987 to 1997, he worked as Research Scientist and Field Station Leader with Westvaco Corporation in Appomattox, Virginia, and Rupert, West Virginia, where he conducted research in genetics and tree improvement, site preparation and early competition control in loblolly pine, land classification mapping, biometrics and forest nutrition. Originally from Southern Pennsylvania, Creighton received a bachelor's degree in forest science from Penn State and a master's degree in forestry from the University of Kentucky. He is currently residing at Lake Monticello, Virginia.

The Tree Improvement Program, still headed up by **Onesphore "Ones" Bitoki**, has returned to the Resource Information fold. Fieldwork should be easier with more hands.

Chris Asaro is our new Forest Health Specialist. Chris has a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in ecology from Cornell University. He received his master's in forest entomology from the State University of New York at Syracuse and his doctorate in forest entomology from the University of Georgia. Chris is coming to us from the University of Georgia, where he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate. He has done extensive research there, which includes the management of Nantucket pin tip moth in loblolly pine plantations and biological control of the hemlock wooly adelgid. Prior to that, he worked as a Research Entomologist for the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station. Chris has written numerous technical journal articles, proceedings, papers and other publications. Chris is living in Charlottesville, Virginia.

John Pemberton remains our Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) Coordinator and is excited to welcome two new FIA Foresters, Justin Barnes in Region 2 and Joe Rosetti in Region 1.

Joe Rosetti grew up outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and graduated in May 2004 with a bachelor's degree in forest resources management from West Virginia University. While in school, he worked throughout West Virginia for Dr. John Brooks, and in Michigan for the USFS FIA Program. Following graduation, he obtained employment at Natco Forestry Services, a forestry consulting company in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Joe is a five-year member of the Society of American Foresters and has been active at multiple levels of that organization. He enjoys fishing, hiking, backpacking, gardening and is a musician. Joe is engaged to be married this June and is residing in Emporia, Virginia.

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Hurricane Isabel

SALVAGE CONTINUES

- James City and York Counties

Salvage logging from Hurricane Isabel is making progress on the lower peninsula in Region 2. To date, a rough summary of downed timber harvested on both public and private woodlands is around 2,000,000 feet of logs. The total on pulpwood is still unknown. All of the downed timber on the City of Williamsburg and Newport News watersheds will be harvested. All of the downed timber on Colonial Williamsburg woodlands will be harvested. All of the downed timber on privately-owned woodlands (that have more than a few acres of downed timber) will also be harvested.

Several lessons have been learned. Where possible, always harvest the pine first. In most cases this is not practical – but if you have a choice, start on tracts with downed pine. The hardwood will hold for several years. The pine has no value for logs if the bark is gone and the logs have stained. For hardwood, the value is the same even if the sapwood is gone. Loggers sold red oak logs that were at least 10 years old. All of the sapwood had rotted away but the heartwood was sound.

The salvage and recovery from Hurricane Isabel continues...



Jacob Lincoln with a salvaged red oak log on Eastern State Hospital State Lands project.



Dean Cumbia, Jacob Lincoln and William Tenny on a log deck with salvaged red oak logs.



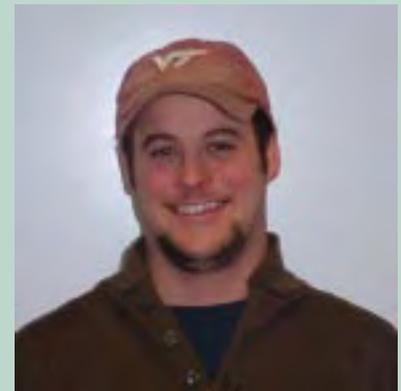
Jacob Lincoln with a red oak log that scaled 610 feet. Sapwood is soft and was not scaled.

New Faces, continued...

Justin Barnes is the new FIA Forester for Region 2. He is a May 2004 Virginia Tech graduate and was most recently a Procurement Forester for Blackwater Transport in Franklin, Virginia, his hometown. Justin is residing in Montpelier in Hanover County.

Mindia Brown will head up the newly created Forest Spatial Analysis Program, assisted by John Scrivani, Jason Braunstein, and the new remote sensing specialist to be hired soon. Mindia will continue to be the project leader for the development of the agency-critical IFRIS.

Charlie Becker and **Sam Austin** will continue to manage their programs of utilization and marketing, and forest hydrology, respectively.



JUSTIN BARNES

Hunt TO BENEFIT DISABLED HUNTERS

Submitted by Mike Eckley, Forester, Region 3



Being a newcomer to the Department of Forestry and having had the good fortune of being assigned to Orange County has made it relatively easy for me to find plenty of unique opportunities to work with other individuals and groups on projects and events relating to resource management.

A recent event that I participated in seemed worthy of sharing with you all. During the second and third weekends of this past December, the J. E. Taylor Hunt Club held its first "special hunt" to benefit disabled hunters. Hunt club members, along with the support of local businesses and the sponsorship of BuckMasters American Deer Foundation, were able to organize this hunt with eight participating hunters.

Opportunities to get involved and assist with such an event enabled me to improve our agency's visibility within the community and allowed me to begin networking and developing working relationships with a variety of people in the Orange County area and beyond.

Since my arrival to Region 3 a little over six months ago, I quickly realized that Orange County has a vast history, ranging from the Civil War battlegrounds of the Wilderness Campaign to the 2,500-acre estate of James Madison's Montpelier. Our nation's 12th President, Zachary Taylor was born in Orange County in 1784 and his family estate, dating back to the original land grant in 1722, remains actively managed today.

The Taylor Estate is under the ownership of Helen Marie Taylor and her son, Howell Taylor. The 12,500 acres of mixed forest and rolling pastureland has a rich history of sustainable forestry and agricultural practices. Managing the land has been a primary goal of the Taylor's, which has provided countless benefits to the family, along with the local community and state. Much of the open land is leased out to local farmers to pasture their cattle. The fast-growing loblolly pine plantations clustered throughout the estate continue to

help supply fiber and sawlogs to local paper and lumber mills. J. P. Taylor was one of the first people to visualize loblolly pine as a cash crop in Virginia. F.D. "Bud" Kidwell, retired county forester with the Virginia Department of Forestry, recalls the state research plots that were established on the Taylor's pine stands to monitor growth over an extended period of time. The sale of timber helped to fund the building of Taylor Park and the historical museum, both located in the town of Orange.

Howell Taylor, (8th generation of the Taylor family) flew in from California to evaluate the success of this special hunt and to enjoy the socializing and camaraderie often affiliated with southern hunt clubs.

"Maintaining our family land is important," said Howell. "We value our heritage as good stewards, and we want to continue that legacy. To do so, we utilize the services of a variety of professional land management consultants and agencies to ensure that we are making the best decisions, not only financially, but for the land, wildlife, recreational opportunities, water quality and aesthetics."

My role for the day was to assist one of the hunters. I was assigned with McRae B. Southard, relative to Lou Southard who worked for the DOF a few years back. McRae spent the early years of his life growing up near Montpelier. He recalled many fond memories of roaming the local hillsides each fall in search of the elusive white-tailed deer. Two years ago an unfortunate accident while fishing on an Atlantic charter boat forever changed his life. An annual fishing event turned into a nightmare when the boat hit a rogue wave, jolting McRae out of his seat and up into the air. The force of the jolt and his awkward landing crushed portions of his vertebrae and left him partially paralyzed.

During the hunt, early that Saturday morning, as dawn approached, McRae B. Southard and I sat behind the concealment of a camouflage ground blind, scanning the horizon for movement, anticipating that distant sound of leaves crunching under the hooves of a wide-racked buck. This was one day that will not be soon forgotten.

Special thanks to: BuckMasters; PB Sports; Haynes Outdoors; R. C. Butler, Inc.; Jones Johns; Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; and Virginia Department of Forestry.

For information on next year's J. E. Taylor Hunt Club, Inc. 2nd Handicap Hunt, go to Buckmasters.com starting in August 2005. <http://www.badf.org/DisabledHunters.html>

Forestry Projects

A SUCCESS AT RC&D CONFERENCE

Submitted by William Worrell, RC&D Forester, Region 6

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Forester, Bill Worrell, represented the Virginia Department of Forestry at the Southeastern Association of RC&D Councils Conference in Savannah, Georgia in September. Bill's exhibit highlighted the RC&D Firewise Virginia projects that have been completed in VDOF Regions 5 and 6. The display also highlighted the Outfitters Directory that the New River-Highlands RC&D Council completed with funding from the VDOF Economic Development Action Program.

During the conference, 14 project success stories were presented for training opportunities. Virginia was selected to present two success stories at the conference and both were projects of the New River-Highlands RC&D involving partnerships with the VDOF and the USDA Forest Service. The New River-Highlands project success story presentations included the Outfitters Guide, funded by the VDOF, and the White Pine Tipping Promotional Project, funded by the USDA Forest Service Economic Recovery Program. The Southeastern RC&D Region includes the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.



A display highlighting the RC&D Firewise Virginia projects and the Outfitters Guide at the Southeastern Association of RC&D Councils in Savannah, Georgia.

Mistletoe Hunt

A GREAT .22 LONG RIFLES TRADITION

Submitted by Mike Eckley, Forester, Region 3

This past December marked the 15-year anniversary of the .22 Long Rifles Annual Mistletoe Hunt. While the origins of this event are not well documented, it has been told that this special get-together stems from the intense workloads of the early 1990s, which was a product of the bark beetle epidemic and resulting reforestation efforts.

Jon Willoughy, who worked as the Louisa County Technician before transferring to Botetourt County this past fall, describes the mistletoe hunt as a sacred ritual. "Every year, the hunt is held along the banks of James River in Goochland County, where mistletoe has traditionally grown in abundance. The hunt starts in the early morning with breakfast danishes and hot-off-the-grill egg, cheese and venison sandwiches. After filling up the gut, everyone pulls out their prized .22 Long Rifles and proceeds with target practice. Zeroing in your rifle is crucial because your success in contributing to the hunt depends on the accuracy of your shooting. Thousands of rounds of ammunition are shot each year with the intention of harvesting enough mistletoe to fill up the bed of Dean Smith's old pickup truck." The mistletoe is then divided among participants for them to distribute throughout individual counties to spread holiday cheer.

Steve Pence, one of the founding fathers of this Region 3 phenomenon, describes the hunt as, "a way for DOF people who work together to have an opportunity to play together and a great way to renew acquaintances and make new ones."



The three newest VDOF personnel enlisted to partake in this tradition with high hopes that they will continue to carry on its legacy for years to come are: (left to right) Erik Filep, Louisa County Technician; Mike Eckley, Orange County Forester; and Bill Perry, Fluvanna County Technician.

Photo submitted by Dave Stone, Forester, Region 3

Employee SPOTLIGHT

KAREN SNAPE, REGION 2

*Submitted by Dave Slack, Regional
Forester, Region 2*



In November of 2004, a new face was seen in King George and Stafford Counties. Karen Snape arrived and was pleased to have the opportunity to fill the Area Forester position serving these counties.

Karen grew up in West Chester, Pennsylvania, just outside the city of Philadelphia. Having an interest in the outdoors and the natural world from an early age, she attended Juniata College in central Pennsylvania and earned her bachelor's degree in biology. After graduation, she decided to pursue a master's degree at Duke University. Karen, being a glutton for punishment, earned not one but two master's degrees. She holds a master's in forestry and a master's in environmental management from Duke University, graduating in 2003.

After graduation, Karen returned to the Philadelphia area and worked in several natural resources-related positions. She has experience as an environmental educator, working in this role with the Freedom Valley Girl Scouts in the Philadelphia area.

Karen's interests are hiking, camping and reading. She is a member of the Society of American Foresters, and hopes to remain active in the local chapters. In the future, she hopes to volunteer again with local Girl Scout groups in the Fredericksburg area. She currently resides in Dahlgren, Virginia.

Karen is very excited about the position, particularly the variety of duties in the area and the opportunities to conduct environmental education and outreach to non-traditional customers. You may see Karen around in the future at trainings or meetings, so please take the time to introduce yourself.

LISA KRAJEWSKI, REGION 2

*Submitted by Dave Slack, Regional
Forester, Region 2*



A second new face joined Region 2 in November, 2004. Lisa Krajewski arrived to fill the Forester position in Henrico County.

Lisa was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. As a young girl, she was exposed to natural resources through her father, who works as a geologist. She always enjoyed the outdoors and the environment, so the study of natural resources was a perfect fit. Lisa attended college at Syracuse University, earning a bachelor's degree in forest resource management in 2000.

After graduation, she took a position with Davey Tree Care Company in San Francisco, California. During her time with Davey, she focused on tree maintenance in electric right-of-ways, making prescriptions on tree removal, pruning and landowner assistance.

After working for Davey, she wanted to be closer to her family, so she relocated to Virginia. Lisa's next position was with Osmose, Inc. This position brought her to Richmond. Her work with Osmose centered on tree maintenance in utility right-of-ways, mapping utility lines and directing herbicide applications.

Lisa enjoys hiking, camping and fishing. She looks forward to the new challenges and duties as an Area Forester in Henrico. Lisa says she especially wants to build an urban forestry program to serve customers in the Richmond area. Lisa is studying to become a member of the International Society of Arboriculture. She resides with her dog, Wilson, in Richmond, Virginia.

Please welcome Lisa the next time you see her at a DOF function.

Paul D. Stoneburner recently joined the Department of Forestry as a full-time Technician working in Albemarle County. He is no stranger to the Albemarle area since he was born and raised here. He graduated from Rock Hill Academy and attended two years at University of Virginia. He is a life member of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad.

Paul is also no stranger to the VDOF, as he started working there in 1972 and continued through 1974 before going to work with the City of Charlottesville Fire Department as a firefighter. He was never far from forestry, however. During his career with the fire department, he continued to work as a part-time forest firefighter and dozer operator for the VDOF. Recently, Paul retired as a Captain from the fire department and returned to work with the VDOF full time once again.

Paul and his wife raised two children, both grown and married, and now have two grandsons and one granddaughter. His greatest employment satisfaction comes from fighting fire and teaching firefighters. Paul will continue to get his share of both in Albemarle County where we have 30 to 50 brushfires annually. When asked why he wanted to work for the VDOF, he replied that, "It was fun!"

When Paul is not fighting fire, you will most likely see him in the forest inspecting silvicultural logging operations to assure our streams' water quality. In a year's time, he will inspect more than 100 logging operations at least twice each. Some do not realize that Albemarle County has a significant forest economy, but it ranks 11th in the Commonwealth and is the largest in central Virginia. In addition, 300 to 600 acres per year are reforested and four to 10 riparian forest buffers are established.

When Paul is not protecting the water and the forest from fire, he will be spending his time with Smokey Bear in the area schools instilling the value of preventing forest fires in our next generation. True to his second love, he will be training firefighters on wildland fire suppression.

Paul is well suited to continue helping meet Albemarle's and Central Virginia's forestry and wildfire needs in his new role. Next time you see him, give him a warm welcome back to the Department of Forestry.

John Campbell joined the Department of Forestry on January 31st as the Public Information Director. He has more than 22 years of state, federal, and private sector experience in the field of public relations and communications – all in Virginia. John is an Air Force veteran who shot photographs from the back seat of an F-15 Eagle. He holds a bachelor's in public relations with a minor in political science, and a master's in media management with a minor in business. Both his degrees are from Virginia Commonwealth University. John started his career as a Public Affairs Officer with the United States Air Force and has served as Public Information Officer at Virginia Department of Transportation. He led the public relation efforts at Christopher Newport University for five years and was a professor of mass communications at Virginia Commonwealth University for seven years. He also served as the Chief of Marketing and Communications for Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. John most recently served as a consultant for Virginia Department of Transportation to create and implement a strategic communications program.

He loves the mountains and enjoys canoeing. Married for 16 years, he and his wife, Evelyn, have a daughter, Sarah, who is a freshman at Godwin High School in Henrico County.

We are excited to have an individual with John's background, education and experience joining the DOF. John is stationed at Central Office.

"I'm very excited about joining the DOF team," he said. "I am looking forward to helping raise public awareness of all the great things the Department does for the citizens of the Commonwealth."

PAUL STONEBURNER, REGION 3

*Submitted by Nelson Shaw,
Forester, Region 3*



JOHN CAMPBELL, CENTRAL OFFICE

*Submitted by Janet Muncy, Graphic
Specialist, Public Information Division*



Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

Jerre Creighton is our new Research Manager in the Resource Information Division at Central Office.

Bernard "Al" Brooks is our new Lunenburg Technician in Region 4. Al comes to us from the Town of South Hill where he worked as a Public Works Inspector. His previous job involved water quality inspections for construction projects. He has also worked as an Agricultural Manager at a state prison and as an equipment operator for a logging company. Al has both his CDL and commercial pesticide license.

Chris Asaro is our new Forest Health Specialist, taking over the former Entomologist's forest health responsibilities.

John Campbell is the new Public Information Director of our recently formed Public Information Division.

Jonathan Pine accepted the Northern Virginia Technician position. He received his associate's degree in forest technology from Dabney Lancaster Community College. While in school, he served as an intern with the USDA Forest Service in Bridgewater, Virginia.

Joe Rossetti is our new FIA Forester for Region 1.

Steve Wells is our new Russell County Technician. He received his associate's in forest technology from Allegany Community College. He was an Inventory Forester for Georgia-Pacific and a Plant Health Care Technician for Davey Tree Experts. For the past seven years, he served as a Forest Technician with Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He is an experienced firefighter and has extensive GIS experience.

Pam Logan is our new Administrative Specialist/Receptionist at Central Office. She most recently has been working as a Police Records Specialist with the City of Charlottesville.

Anne Ulrey is the new 18-month RC&D Forester stationed in Tappahannock. She received her bachelor's in forestry with a minor in agriculture from the University of Kentucky. She comes to us from Kentucky where she has been working as a Forest

Research Associate with Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands. Anne is a trained wildland firefighter.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Harold Fisher married his sweetheart, Jarre, on November 20 in Arkansas. Congratulations to Harold and Jarre.

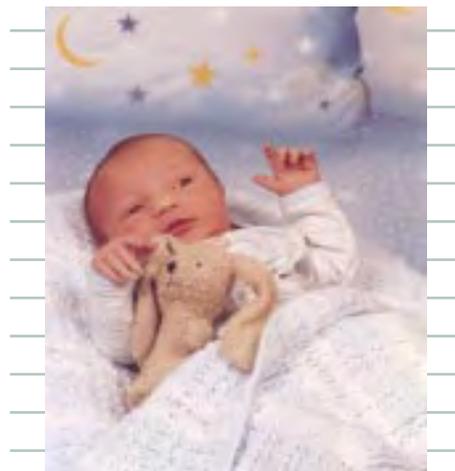
Steve Counts, Resource Specialist in Region 6, recently completed his bachelor of science degree in management and leadership from Virginia Intermont College in Bristol. Steve has been working on the degree at night since 2001. Good job, Steve! We're proud of you.

NEW ARRIVALS:

Connie Young, Forestry Worker at Garland Gray Forestry Center, became a proud Grandmother for the first time. Her grandson, Timothy Michael, was born January 11th weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces.

Tom Smith, Technician in Bedford County, and wife, Jen, welcomed their first baby. Coleton Michael arrived on January 31st weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces.

Bill Worrell, RC&D Forester, Region 6, and Mandy are the proud parents of Isaac Creed, born November 15th. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces.



Isaac Creed Worrell

MOVERS & SHAKERS:

John Scrivani, former Research Director, is now the new Resource Information Director at Central Office. You'll find John in the same place with different responsibilities.

Buck Kline, former Water Quality Engineer, received a promotion to Regional Forester in Region 3. He has been with the agency for 25 years. We wish Buck much success in his new position.

Dennis Gaston, former Forester in Charles City and New Kent counties, received a promotion to Assistant Regional Forester in Region 2. Dennis has been a Forester with DOF since 1985. From October 2002 through April 2004, he served on special assignment as the New Kent Forestry Center Manager. We wish Dennis much success in his new position.

CONDOLENCES:

Donna Cognata, former Financial Services Manager, lost her father-in-law in a car accident on December 10. Our thoughts and prayers are with Donna and her family during this difficult period.

Dwight Stallard, Nurseries Manager, lost his brother, Larry, to cancer. He died January 23rd, which was also his 54th birthday.

Sandra Stephens, Administrative Specialist, Region 3, on the loss of her brother, Sammy Kennedy, in January.

G. B. McDonald, Retired Technician in Montgomery and Giles Counties, lost his oldest daughter, Martha, to cancer.

Judy Thompson, wage employee at New Kent Forestry Center, suffered a double loss. Her two nephews, ages 17 and 20, were killed in a car accident in Charlotte, North Carolina in January.

ATTENTION RETIREES!

Barbara Worrell, Retired Administrative Staff Specialist in the State Forester's Office, has a new email address: barbieken321@ntelos.net

I found this article written by Joel Artman, former pathologist with the Department of Forestry. I hope you take the time to slow down, read, and enjoy! Joel Artman was with VDOF from 1962 until he retired in 1995. He died July 27, 2002 in Chester, Virginia.

Submitted by Becky Woodson, Administrative Specialist, Resource Management Division, Central Office

DO LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT?

By Joel D. Artman

Sometimes when it's time to think, there's a place I go. A place away from the world; a corner where a confirmed introvert can still assume a fetal posture and contemplate and observe things that are oft forgotten just outside the gate to this quiet place.

I don't mean I contemplate and observe ethereal, supernatural or otherwise weird stuff. Rather, my thoughts involve things I've enjoyed all my life. My personal fear is that if I don't keep in touch with them, I'll lose out to computers, riots, recession, election year hoorah, world terrorism, drugs, gangs, and all those other things that compose the "big picture" this day and time.

While I'm at my quiet place, I can concentrate on those things

that, to me, are really important. For example, once each year I get to watch buds swell and burst into the new growth that will help assure I'll get to watch again next year.

I watch as a ribbon of water passes. It begins high in the Blue Ridge, passes me, joins the James and flows on to the ocean. I sometimes call the Rockfish my river, but fully realize the folly of such. Someone else's water today will be mine tomorrow and mine today will be someone else's tomorrow. I can own this river no more than I can the wind that rustles the leaves and cools my quiet place.

The critters – oh, the critters I watch. They are everywhere if we'd just slow down long enough to see. Oh sure, there are turkey, quail, deer and rabbits but there is also the ant carrying food back to the colony, a caterpillar feeding on leaves from a bud I enjoyed earlier. Another caterpillar is parasitized by a wasp, while yet another makes the miraculous transformation to beautiful butterfly – this one a zebra swallowtail. There will be black and white stripes on the wings

and a vivid red spot on each hind wing. All the intricacy of color and patterns stem from individual tiny scales that alone are nothing, but together articulate the design, color and beauty that I enjoy so much.

The wrens building a nest in my canoe are persistent. They begin that task almost every spring weekend, but already have a nest and young in the oven vent of the trailer. Don't you wonder why? I hope you do because those are the kind of deep things I ponder here.

Wildflowers are everywhere. I work on identifying them, but for now I'm satisfied with purple things, yellow things, blue things and the ever present and beautiful red things.

Among the orb-weaving spiders, the black and yellow Argiope is a favorite. It's a magnificent predator and the zigzag vertical silken decoration on the web is neat. I don't know the reason for the zigzag but I know Mother Nature well enough to know there must be one. The characteristic web glistens in the very early morning, with dew clinging to each silken thread. I

marvel at the beauty.

The osprey over the river is looking for that gar that I caught and released last summer. What a thrill to see this bird crash into the river after a fish and what a thrill to recall the gar. I just knew I had the biggest catfish ever caught here.

I have a problem understanding ticks, poison ivy, chiggers and mosquitoes. There must be a reason for their existence; I guess I'll just have to keep looking for an answer.

With all the rain, the fungi are really enjoying my firewood. Fruiting bodies are everywhere, some very beautiful. All of them break down dead wood, and that's important to a forester. Without such, every leaf, twig, branch and tree that ever fell would still be there, and that would make woods walking sorta tough. You see, more deep contemplation stuff!

Some of the fruiting bodies, or mushrooms, have pores on the underside, some have gills, and some have nothing at all. They are as numerous and diverse as the wild flowers and butterflies;

...continued on page 12



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wayne L. Perfater (R5) ~ Apr. 1
Lawrence M. Dunn (R3) ~ Apr. 3
James C. Bowling (R4) ~ Apr. 3
Justin K. Barnes (CO) ~ Apr. 3
Gale B. Washburn (R4) ~ Apr. 4
Paul M. Reier (NK) ~ Apr. 5
Carl B. Belew (CO) ~ Apr. 9
William R. Ruby (Ret) ~ Apr. 9
Ernest W. Thompson (CO) ~ Apr. 11
Zachary H. Dowling (R1) ~ Apr. 13
Joseph L. Lehnen (R3) ~ Apr. 15
Edward Washington (NK) ~ Apr. 16
David A. Milby (R2) ~ Apr. 16
John H. Pemberton (CO) ~ Apr. 21
Ralph J. Brubaker (CO) ~ Apr. 22
Richard A. Gravelly (R4) ~ Apr. 25

Steven Counts (R6) ~ Apr. 25
Dennis L. York (Ret) ~ Apr. 25
Kenneth W. Mohler (R5) ~ Apr. 27
Donald W. Garman (R6) ~ Apr. 29
Charles W. Becker (CO) ~ May 1
Gregory H. Winston (R4) ~ May 2
Percy W. Ayers (CO) ~ May 3
Donna S. Hoy (CO) ~ May 3
Jerre L. Creighton (CO) ~ May 4
Stephen M. Moyer (R3) ~ May 5
Stanley F. Warner (Ret) ~ May 8
Arthur G. Cox (Ret) ~ May 9
Paul F. Revell (CO) ~ May 10
Bernard A. Brooks (R4) ~ May 10
Christopher S. Asaro (CO) ~ May 12
James H. Guess (Ret) ~ May 14
Clara V. Rowe (R2) ~ May 15
L. Wayen Huskey (CO) ~ May 16
Sandra G. Booth (R5) ~ May 16

Charles D. Kuhler (R3) ~ May 19
C. Russell Proctor (R6) ~ May 19
Dean P. Cumbia (CO) ~ May 20
Gregory S. Meade (R3) ~ May 20
C. William Bruffey (CO) ~ May 22
Larry W. Layman (Ret) ~ May 24
Dennis W. Anderson (R5) ~ May 24
Pauline Lucas (Ret) ~ May 25
S. Mindia Brown (CO) ~ May 27
Jessica A. Parker (CO) ~ May 28
Amy M. Ricotta (CO) ~ May 29
William L. Braford (Ret) ~ May 30
Richard H. Miles (R5) ~ May 31
Rebecca L. Woodson (CO) ~ June 1
Carol K. Evans (R3) ~ June 2
Donald M. Davis (R1) ~ June 5
Richard L. Starnes (Ret) ~ June 7
Mary Gay Altizer (R6) ~ June 7
Justin B. Hancock (Ret) ~ June 9
Donald L. Parrott (Ret) ~ June 10
Joseph C. Street (CO) ~ June 11
David L. Stone (R3) ~ June 12

H. F. Jones (R6) ~ June 12
Margaret Carpenter (CO) ~ June 12
Frank N. Wood (Ret) ~ June 14
B. David Edwards (R6) ~ June 15
Kathleen M. Bassett (R1) ~ June 16
Gerald R. Crowell (R3) ~ June 16
Roberta C. Duncan (R3) ~ June 19
Vanessa B. Blick (GG) ~ June 20
Carolyn G. Haggerty (AG) ~ June 22
Dennis R. Vaughan (R4) ~ June 24
Thomas J. Smith (R5) ~ June 25
Thomas A. Edmonds (R1) ~ June 25
David B. Powell (R1) ~ June 25
James C. Clark (R5) ~ June 25
James R. Gering (Ret) ~ June 26
Brenda H. Taylor (CO) ~ June 26
Larry R. Willis (Ret) ~ June 26
Preston E. Trower (R1) ~ June 26
Steven N. Shelley (R6) ~ June 26
Samuel R. Barkley (R3) ~ June 27
James N. Ebbert (R5) ~ June 28
David W. Slack (R2) ~ June 30



Mail Bag

Do Little Things Mean A Lot? continued...

each is fascinating. Some with gills are so dainty. The gill of one I admire is about the thickness of a hair, but it functions as if built out of brick and block. The fungus reproduces itself in the chambers between the gills, and this involves constant explosions throughout the length and width of the gill. Come to think of it, brick and block probably couldn't withstand the shock!

This mushroom is full of bugs and I'm reminded of two professors I had in school. One maintained that when the world, as we know it, ends, there will be a bug left to carry on. The other said that if such occurs, there will be a fungus eating the bug!

As I rearrange some wood, I uncover a red eft. From eggs in the water it passed through a gilled larval stage to this terrestrial stage. It will then mature sexually, the tail will flatten out, the color changes and this salamander will return to the water for the rest of its life. It's just one more amazing life cycle from my little world.

So, there is this whole little world that slips by most people. We so-called environmental scientists wonder why others don't understand and appreciate what we are trying to do and to me the answer seems so clear. Most people today, in their rush to understand the big picture, forget that it is composed of more little pictures than any of us can comprehend. I'm convinced that we can't begin with the big and work back; we must observe and contemplate the little and build to the big. That's the only way things begin to make sense. But there is no time for that in today's hustle, bustle world, no time to mold the little pieces of the puzzle into the big masterpiece. Wouldn't it be better to study and understand a few little pictures during a lifetime than to worry about and never understand the big picture? I can answer only for myself, but the frustration and confusion of the big picture drives me crazy. So, at least for me, LITTLE THINGS DON'T JUST MEAN A LOT—THEY MEAN EVERYTHING!

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 to whom they should be returned.

Submit articles to:
Janet Muncy, Editor
janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov

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Spring Issue -- February 1, 2006

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