



FORESTRY ews

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

MISSION:

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

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VIRGINIA FOREST EDUCATION CENTER UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

The Commonwealth's first educational facility dedicated to teaching Virginians about the many benefits of forestry and conservation is being developed at the New Kent Forestry Center, located near Providence Forge (between Richmond and Williamsburg).

Called the Virginia Forest Education Center, the facility will be housed in a former tree nursery building, which will build on the conservation theme through adaptive use of an existing building. Lumber for the renovation project will come from trees that were knocked down during a storm that ripped through Charlottesville several months ago. Trees removed around the Region 3 and Spotsylvania County offices are also being used.

"This has been a great opportunity for us to practice what we preach and turn hazard and problem trees into useful products," said Charlie Becker, utilization and marketing specialist. "It fits very well with the goals of the educational center."

Twenty VDOF employees (Matt Poirot, Tom Snoddy, Todd Groh, Jerre Creighton, Jeff Hensley, Mike Stoneburner, Paul Stoneburner, David Queen, Wayne Huskey, Dean Cumbia, Chris Asaro, Larry Mikkelson, Becky Woodson, Thomas Mallory, David Bruce, Ben Bradburn and four interns) teamed up with Becker to salvage the downed trees and saw them into boards at the Region 3 office.

Deputy State Forester John Carroll said, "I'm grateful to all the folks who have worked on the project thus far. They are enabling us to build something that we've been hoping to develop for a very long time, and it's a great use of our natural resources."

The former tree seedling grading facility at New Kent will be modified to include two small classrooms that will have enough space to teach 35 people each and one larger classroom where more than 100 people can gather to learn.

Project Learning Tree Coordinator and Forest Education Specialist Lisa Deaton will work with Conservation Education Coordinator Ellen Powell



VDOF salvages downed trees by sawing them into lumber for the Virginia Forest Education Center at New Kent.

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Message

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



Well, another hot, dry summer has come and gone. We saw KBDI indexes in the 400+ to 600+ range throughout most of the past three months. We averaged several fires each day – which is fairly unusual during the summer months in Virginia. And while there were several fires that were started by fireworks and others that were caused by lightning, the majority of our summer fires were due to people debris burning (much as we see during spring and fall fire seasons). But debris fires in the summer are not the norm in Virginia, as our humidity is usually high and we typically receive some decent rainfall each week. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case this summer. Several areas of the Commonwealth dealt with severe drought conditions, while the rest of the state experienced drought-like conditions.

So, what led to this unusually dry pattern this summer? Certainly, this is the \$64,000-question. Some will attribute it to El Niño. Others may say greenhouse gases and global warming. But there's no one single answer to this question. It's likely a conglomeration of many different reasons – some of which we may never know or understand.

Last year, Texas and Oklahoma suffered from a severe lack of rain and one of the worst (if not the worst) fire seasons ever. Nearly 2 million acres burned in those two states. This summer, Texas and Oklahoma are inundated with more rain than ever before. The flooding they've experienced is beyond imagination. Why the drastic change from one year to the next? Again, while it's not easily explained, it's likely that there are many factors at work here. And I was fortunate enough to experience a new approach to examining and discussing such perplexing issues.

In the early part of the summer, I attended the Southern Group of State Foresters' annual meeting in Oklahoma City. One of the keynote sessions featured a presentation on global climate change by Dr. Steve McNulty of the USFS Southern Research Station. He began the session with a historical overview and the implications of this much-talked-about topic. But, unlike so many others who assert that human activity is the root cause of what is referred to as global warming, Dr. McNulty posited that the real issue affecting mankind is not global warming but climate variability. This sparked great interest among those in attendance, and the conversation took off from there.

With the stage set by Dr. McNulty, session participants were divided into eight groups to address four questions in an open-discussion, roundtable format. Each group tackled one question for 15 minutes then proceeded to another table to discuss a different question for 15 minutes. The process continued until each group had addressed all four questions. Thoughts and ideas were recorded by a table monitor who relayed the common themes to the Communications Chiefs. The communications committee synthesized the themes generated and reported those out on the last day of the SGSF meeting. This style of discussion is called a "world café," and it offered everyone there an opportunity to be heard without fear of being judged.

I would encourage you to learn more about the world café (visit <http://www.worldcafe.com>) and see how you might use it to work better with your VDOF colleagues either in your groups or committees or externally in some of your landowner workshops or programs. I think you'll find the world café process offers some insight and/or information that you may not have heard or seen using traditional methods of information exchange.

Carl Harrison
State Forester

OAK SILVAH TRAINING

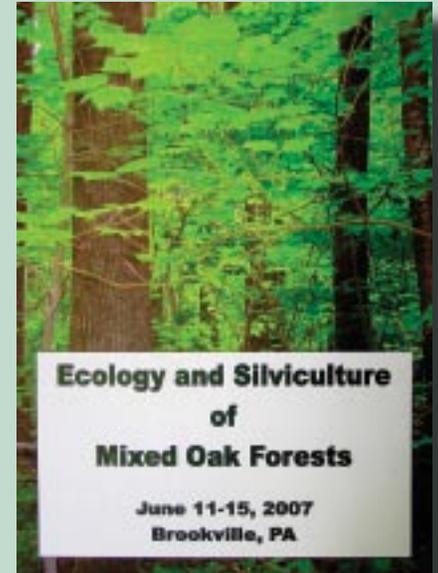
Submitted by Greg Estoll, forester, Region 6, Buchanan and Tazewell counties

In mid-June, John Wright and I trekked up to Brookville, PA, not far from Punxsutawney, for a conference about oak ecology and silviculture. More specifically, the major topics were regeneration problems of oak on good sites and the SILVAH computer program, which can be used to guide management decisions based on collected field data. The training is held annually by the research branch of the USDA Forest Service with a lot of help from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. The local Clear Creek State Forest has a wide variety of field sites where experimentation through various timber sales has occurred – some with good and some with poor results.

Successfully regenerating oak, especially northern red oak, had become a severe problem on the Clear Creek State Forest, but a combination of fencing, herbicide treatments and prescribed burning coupled with timber stand improvement, shelterwood and overstory removal harvests have begun to turn the problem around. While Pennsylvania has a more severe problem with deer, striped maple and fern than I have seen, this training has helped me to better recognize potential problems.

To try and synopsise a week into a paragraph: there are two laws of oak silviculture. One, there must be a competitive source of oak regeneration (this is preferably defined as advanced oak seedlings 3 feet tall or having a root collar diameter of 0.75 inches). Two, there must be a timely and sufficient release of the competitive oak regeneration. Heavy deer presence may necessitate fencing; fern presence may necessitate broadcast herbicide; striped maple presence may necessitate either broadcast herbicide or prescribed fire; competition from alternate tree species may require prescribed fire at the appropriate stage of development. Oak management also may require timber stand improvement work in five to 10 years, or more, before a shelterwood or overstory removal cut can be planned to get sufficient light levels to establish adequate competitive oak regeneration.

Many of us probably covered the majority of the information provided during the week while in forestry school, but an intensive refresher with examples in the field help to drive home the refresher that oak management, on good sites, takes effort. Most landowners like oak for timber, aesthetics and wildlife, but the costs are often high, both in dollars and time, to make sure that good sites remain covered with oak into the future. Some landowners will be willing to invest in the future of oak forests regardless of the problems, whereas others only will when the problems are minimal, and still others will not put forth the effort at all. I see it as VDOF's goal to help persuade more landowners to encourage oak into the next generation.



VIRGINIA FOREST EDUCATION CENTER

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to develop the new Center and its programs for both youth and adult audiences.

Deaton said, "This facility will be a tremendous asset in our quest to deliver outstanding forestry education programs to schoolchildren and Virginia landowners as we will be able to take advantage of all that the New Kent Forestry Center has to offer, including the tree seed orchards, the tree improvement program, the nature trail, the wildlife habitat, as well as some other forestry work that will be done in support of the new Virginia Forest Education Center."

The VDOF Buildings and Grounds team will begin creating the classroom space and renovating the exterior of the grading building in the next few weeks.



A portable sawmill was brought in to saw the logs into usable lumber.

Youth EDUCATION

31ST ANNUAL VA-SWCD'S YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP WAS ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS

Submitted by Bill Perry, forester, Region 3, Amherst County, and Justin Hancock, forester, Region 2, Greensville County



Bill Perry teaches the campers about stream ecology.



Justin Hancock leads the campers on a hike in the forest.

This summer, we had the opportunity to be camp counselors for the 31st Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's Youth Conservation Camp. The camp took place during the week of July 8th to the 14th and was held in Blacksburg, VA, on the campus of Virginia Tech. Forty-six campers between the ages of 14 and 18 years old participated in the camp this year.

On forestry day, we split the campers into two groups and we each lead separate hikes along the War Spur Trail, near Mountain Lake Resort. We both discussed the American chestnut trees and walked through an old growth forest of hemlock, red spruce and table mountain pine. The campers learned basic tree identification; the history of forestry in Virginia; current trends in changing land use, and about invasive species. Hands-on experience showed campers how to tell the age of a tree using an increment borer. Campers toured the Brooks Forest Products Center at Virginia Tech where various wood-based composite building and packaging materials are researched and developed.

The week-long camp consisted of many different practical knowledge activities. Campers visited sites around Blacksburg to study soils, forestry, and fish and wildlife management. They also observed how different forest, agriculture and urban land uses affect water quality and actions that are being implemented to lessen these effects. These young adults had the opportunity to speak with natural resource management professionals and learn about different career options; many campers were unaware of the wide variety of natural resource careers. Perhaps the favorite activity of the week was fish shocking with fish biologists from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The Youth Conservation Camp was a long week of little sleep and lots of activity, all of which were very rewarding for the campers and counselors. As counselors, we are continually amazed at the amount of valuable knowledge the campers gain in one week. Youth Conservation Camp gives us a chance to leave a lasting impression on the youth about tomorrow's natural resources.



To learn more details about the Youth Conservation Camp, refer to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Web site at www.vaswcd.org.

READY, SET, GROW

Submitted by Chad Stover, technician, Region 3, Rockingham County

During the week of June 25th, the Rockingham County Extension office hosted a program titled "Ready, Set, Grow." This is a summer enrichment camp for children between the ages of 5 and 8. It is a county-wide camp open to anyone, but is part of the County 4-H program. This year's focus was on nature, specifically plants and insects. Jason Adams, 4-H project associate for Rockingham County, approached Bruce Harmon and me about helping out. He wanted someone to talk about trees and forestry, and also provide a fun, hands-on activity for the children.

We had a few days to decide on an activity, so Bruce began searching through the literature that we had at the office. Drawing on past programs that seemed to have been well received by children of that age group, Bruce decided on making "tree vests." These are vests that the children make from paper grocery bags, then decorate with leaves, needles, cones and various other craft material to demonstrate the parts of a tree that make growing possible. Yarn was glued to the bottom of the vests to symbolize the root system; tissue paper was placed inside the vest as the cambium. Tissue paper was used to help the children visualize the thinness of the cambium. Straws were cut and placed inside the vest to represent the xylem and phloem.

While any project with 12 children ages 5 to 8 years old is somewhat chaotic, a good time was had by all. The children each made their vest a little different, and were anxious to try them on. At the end of the day, everyone wanted to show-off what they had made so an impromptu "fashion show" was held to give everyone an opportunity to model their vests.



Bruce Harmon, forester, helps kids make their "tree vests."



The kids were proud to model their "tree vests" in an impromptu fashion show.

TEACHERS MAKE THE GRADE

Submitted by Dennis Anderson, forester, Region 5, Floyd County

The Glen Tolbert farm was the location of an outdoor class for teachers recently. Educators from Floyd, Pulaski and Montgomery counties gathered Monday, June 11th, for a day of instruction to help meet their continuing education requirements.

The Virginia Department of Forestry conducted the training, which included tree and plant identification, plant life and anatomy, forest management, water cycle and watersheds, natural and human influences in forests, and map reading.

The class began with some unexpected visitors when a couple of otters swam by the registration area, which was located on West Fork. A brief shower brought out the rain gear, but then the sun came back out in time for the compass and pacing exercise. During the exercise, while the teams followed bearings on their compass, there were moments when many looked lost. However, none of the teachers needed rescuing and most were fairly close to finding the desired objective.

The educators all indicated that the class was both profitable and enjoyable, especially the lunch, which was provided by Natasha's in Meadows of Dan.



Dennis Anderson, forester, covered a variety of forestry topics with the teachers in an outdoor classroom environment.

Awards AND ACHIEVEMENTS

REVELL AWARDED THE 2007 GERALD P. MCCARTHY AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

*Submitted by Barbara White, urban and
community forestry partnership coordinator,
Resource Management Division*



*Paul Revell (center) accepts the McCarthy
Award with his wife, Lindy.*

The following are excerpts from Revell's nomination by Kim Watson of the Community Design Assistance Center:

Paul Revell is relentlessly dedicated to protecting Virginia's environment by improving current conditions and encouraging thoughtful planning for the future. He is meaningfully engaged in every possible level of state affairs:

1. Working with small, unknown, and/or under-served communities throughout the Commonwealth;
2. Providing training and educational opportunities for community, municipal, regional and state leaders, and rising young professionals;
3. Interacting with other state and national environmental leaders, and sharing this knowledge-base with Virginians

When I think of Paul Revell, I think of a weaver; Virginia is his loom, and the communities and members of the Commonwealth are the threads. Paul masterfully works to wind these threads together to create partnerships and products that these "threads" would never have been able to do on their own.

He tirelessly passes throughout the state, pointing individuals, groups and towns in the right direction, connecting them with both "environmental experts" and funding sources.

Paul encourages people to broaden their vision, motivates others to take ownership, and empowers communities to achieve their potential. He supports capacity building for collaborative problem-solving by promoting and enabling individuals to broaden their perspective through training and education, by enlarging people's professional resource network, and by encouraging multi-disciplinary projects.

He stands as a role model to all those in Virginia endeavoring to make a difference for the future of the environment. He is faithful, relentless and persistent. He is a visionary, seeing great potential in seemingly unlikely people or communities.

Paul was involved with Virginia's state-wide Governor's Sanctions Greenway Plan and has been a driving force in the biennial Governor's Greenway and Trail conferences since their inception. Through his position in the Virginia Department of Forestry, with Urban and Community Forestry funds he has helped finance the plans or staff positions for several greenways projects. He helped develop and promote a Green Infrastructure training course for leaders, designers and developers in the Commonwealth. This has contributed to the current New River Valley regional pilot project, in connection with The Conservation Fund, to develop a regional Green Infrastructure implementation plan. This pilot project includes participation by staff from almost every state agency.

Visit any small community in Virginia – Paul knows someone there and can connect them to the people they need to know to get their particular project accomplished. Attend a meaningful conference or workshop that is directly or indirectly related to Urban and Community Forestry in the state – Paul has been involved in its planning or execution. Stroll through the arboretums at Ferrum College, Brownsville Elementary School or Blue Ridge Community College, just to mention a few – and with Urban and Community Forestry funds, Paul financed their design and implementation. One would be hard-pressed to find a place in Virginia that Paul has not touched.

REGION 3 HAPPENINGS

Submitted by David Powell, acting regional forester, Region 3

Region 3 has been busy this spring and summer. Between the spotty rains, we have been completing a few prescribed burns, putting out some summer wildfires, inspecting logging jobs, participating in county fairs, Forestry Camp, Virginia Division of Soil and Water Conservation youth summer camp, and many, many other activities. We were sad to say goodbye to long-time employees Sam Barkley and Dean Smith, who have moved on to other great adventures. We have also been successful in hiring some new folks, who have shown up in Region 3 ready and able to make a positive impact on Virginia's forest resources.

Overall, it has been a great year. Since the last issue of the Forestry News, we have recognized several employees for outstanding contributions. First, Erik Filep was selected as the Region 3 Employee of the Year. Congratulations, Erik!

Harold Fisher and Derek Keiser were recognized for their dedicated work on the ATV Safety Committee. Thanks to their efforts, we, as a region, are now trained as safe ATV operators. Thanks, Harold and Derek, and keep up the good work!

With the fall fast approaching, thoughts turn to beautiful autumn vistas and gorgeous weather to enjoy the great outdoors. We in Region 3 wish you a comfortable and enjoyable change in the seasons!



Harold Fisher receives his ATV Safety Committee award from David Powell, acting regional forester.



Eric Filep receives his Employee of the Year Award from Buck Kline, regional forester, Region 3.



Derek Keiser was recognized for his work on the ATV Safety Committee.

A MORRELL OF A STORY

Submitted by Dave Jones, technician, Region 5, Wythe County

While hunting for morrell mushrooms a few weeks ago, I took a shortcut through a hay field and just happened to glance down. What I first saw was what I thought was a 4-leaf clover. When I picked it however, it had five leaves! I had heard of someone finding a 5-leaf clover long, long ago but this was the first one I had seen. In speaking with my local tree planter, she told me she had found a 5-leaf and a 6-leaf before. Now I've always heard that it was good luck to find a 4-leaf clover... is it better luck to find a 5-leaf one... or a 6-leaf one? Does anyone know?

To go back to the mushroom hunt and luck. It was getting a bit late in the season... what little season there was... and the pickin's were slim, when I walked upon an old pony/mule shoe laying in an old road. I picked it up and guess what? I stumbled upon not one but three morrell mushrooms. The first was one of the giant sized that I had already passed by three times prior and not saw it. Then I found the other two. Chalk it up to the horseshoe... or just blind luck? As the saying goes, even a blind hog can find an acorn every now and then.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts – and don't mind sharing the location – of a good morrell hunting area, PLEASE feel free to give me a call. By the way, I didn't find any more mushrooms after finding the 5-leaf clover. Well, that's the "morrell" of the story.



FIRE PREVENTION REACHES HISPANIC COMMUNITY IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Submitted by Bruce Harmon, forester, Region 3, Rockingham County



Recently, the department recognized the efforts of Oscar Cardenas, who took it upon himself to advance fire prevention and review of the 4PM Burning Law with in the Rockingham County Hispanic community during his work as a program assistant with Virginia Cooperative Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. He also served as the liaison between Hispanic youth club at Harrisonburg high school and the firefighter recruitment program initiated by VDOF. His efforts in providing training and career opportunities to help curb gang activities is greatly appreciated.

Oscar is a native of Colombia and has a bachelor's degree in information and technology science. His wife, Paola, recently completed her master's in education and will be teaching in the Waynesboro school system. They are living in Harrisonburg with their daughter, Danna.

Oscar took the next step and recently attended Fort Pickett Fire Academy completing the S-130/190 Basic Firefighter training. His first fire assignment was a hummer detail to Florida's "Bugaboo" complex. Oscar hopes to continue expanding his efforts both in the classroom and as a fire resource for the Department of Forestry.



FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM DEPLOYED TO GEORGIA

Submitted by Ken Mohler, technician, Region 5, Rockbridge County



When William called about being deployed to Georgia, I was very excited to be a part of the Origin & Cause Team. The first team consisted of William Neff and Roxy (the dog), David Edwards, Cody Daniels and myself.

Arriving in Georgia, we met up with Mike Keith, who was the task force leader (for a while that is). Within a few short days, and with Mike's departure, William Neff was selected to take over as the task force leader for the teams. To me, this shows how much the southeastern states respect the knowledge and experience of William Neff.

From the first Sunday morning, we were off and running to work in the sand. Travel was 45 miles to anywhere and keeping law enforcement officers in sight at all times made for a very long day. Working with all of the task force members from five states made the time spent much more pleasurable.

Being the gray-haired, old man of the group, it was great to work with coworkers, such as Cody Daniels, who was eager to take charge of the evidence and log work for it; our leader, William, whose capabilities stand out; and then there is David – there is so much we could say about his experience and people skills.

While being on deployment for 17 days, I can't say enough about all of the nice people we met on a daily basis . It was a pleasure to represent the VDOF in this endeavor.

Employee SPOTLIGHT

ADAM CUMPSTON

Submitted by Bill Miller, assistant regional forester, Region 6

Adam Cumpston, a native of Parkersburg, WV, is the newest addition to Region 6 as the forester for Russell and Dickenson counties. Adam has a bachelor's degree in forestry from West Virginia University. While in college, he worked for the USDA Forest Service for three years as a biological science technician in Forest Health Protection. While at the Forest Service, Adam was responsible for detection, diagnosis and monitoring of exotic insects and diseases on state and federal properties covering a six-state region. Before joining the VDOF, Adam worked briefly as a plant health care technician for The Care of Trees in Mount Kisco, NY.

Adam's hobbies include bass fishing, hunting for deer, raccoon and squirrel, and picking the banjo.



SMOKEY BEAR GOES TO RELAY FOR LIFE

Submitted by Matthew H. Coleman, forester, Region 2, Caroline County

On a hot and steamy Friday night, June 8th, Smokey Bear had an opportunity to help people in a way that was not his usual style. Smokey hit the walking trail in the Caroline County Relay for Life walkathon held at the Caroline High School track. Thankfully, it was at the edge of dark before Smokey had to take his turn in what has become known as the Teddy Bear lap. This is the lap when participants are asked to donate a teddy bear, which will be given to a child in a hospital who may be suffering from cancer. Two to three dozen bears were collected. Smokey even contributed a mini-Smokey Bear for the cause. The Virginia Department of Forestry also provided several potted sawtooth oak seedlings to cancer survivors who were interested in planting one. Unfortunately for the event, a terrific thunderstorm blew through the area and forced officials to evacuate all of the participants into the high school gym until the threat of lightning stopped. When everyone was released to go outside, the small tent city had been destroyed by the strong winds. Event coordinators were forced to cancel the rest of the evening's activities. All in all, it was still a good evening because money and awareness were raised by the effort of many people. Smokey probably even lost a few pounds!



ARBOR DAY IN BUCHANAN

Submitted by Bob Boeren, forester, Botetourt, Roanoke and Craig counties

The town of Buchanan, in Botetourt County, celebrated its first arbor day on April 6, 2007. About 30 citizens, Smokey Bear (Jon Willoughby), and several students from James River High School helped plant about 12 trees in the town's park adjacent to the James River. The town of Buchanan unanimously approved a resolution to become a Tree City USA in December 2006 after Bob Boeren spoke with the town council on the four standards that were needed. First, the town adopted a public tree ordinance and tree board in February of 2007. This accomplished two of the Tree City USA standards. Next, the town of Buchanan has just over 1,200 citizens and needed to spend \$2 per capita on tree care... about \$2,500. This standard was also accomplished. The last standard needed was an Arbor Day and a proclamation. Lastly, becoming a Tree City USA also fit into the town's 200-year anniversary plans for 2011. The town's recently revised comprehensive plan shows a proposed greenway along the James River near where the trees were planted. The town's revitalization manager will be submitting the Tree City USA application this fall.



Resource Information

FOCUS

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS SNAPSHOT

Submitted by John Pemberton, forest inventory coordinator, Resource Information Division

By the time you read this, the FIA staff will have wrapped up the field work for the 8th Survey of Virginia's Forests and have moved on to the 9th Survey remeasurement. We started on the 7th Survey in 1997 and completed the fieldwork in early 2002, then moved on to the 8th Survey.

It takes five years to complete a survey, divided into five "panels" or 20 percent of the plots to be measured annually. Once a panel is completed in the field, then processed and compiled by the Southern Research Station's FIA unit in Knoxville, TN, a "moving average" of data for the latest five available panels is posted to the USFS "Mapmaker" Web application www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb/index.htm for users to run their own queries.

The 2005 moving average, posted in February 2007, is the latest summary data available (1984, 1992, 2001 and 2003 are also online). The 2006 moving average should be online by September 2007. The report of the 7th Survey/Virginia's Forests, 2001, has been slowly winding its way through the publication process at the Southern Research Station in Asheville, NC, and is slated for distribution in late 2007.

The charts and tables are a snapshot of Virginia's forests, taken from the 2005 moving average data:

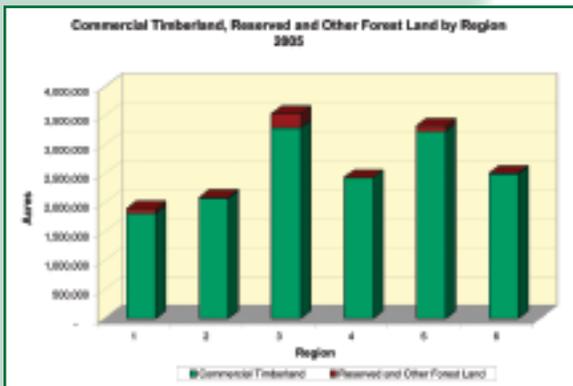


Chart 1

FOREST LAND ACREAGE

Of the 15,765,707 acres of forest land in 2005, 15,308,779 acres were classified as commercial timberland, while 456,928 acres were placed in the reserved and other forest land categories.

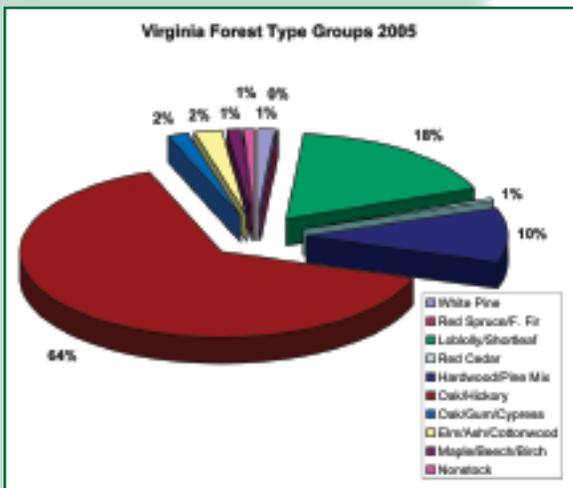


Chart 2

Forest inventory defined commercial timberland as having at least 10 percent stocked with trees and over an acre in size and available for management, while reserved forest land is removed from production legislatively (like national park or wilderness areas). Other forest land is incapable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of industrial wood annually per acre (used to be called "unproductive forest land"). "Forest land" is combined commercial timberland, reserved and other forest land. 2005 data shows 97 percent as commercial forest land, while three percent is classified reserved and other forest land. See Chart 1 for the forest land acreage by Region.

FOREST TYPE GROUP

Oak-Hickory is the predominant forest type group in Virginia at 64 percent or 10,125,844 acres. Loblolly-Shortleaf Pine is second at 18 percent or 2,802,299 acres. If upland and bottomland hardwood types are combined with hardwood/pine types, they account for 78 percent of Virginia's Forests (Chart 2).

OWNERSHIP

Currently, NIPF and corporate (not forest industry) account for 79.9 percent or 12,220,631 acres. Forest industry lands have declined to five percent or 763,219 acres (Chart 3).

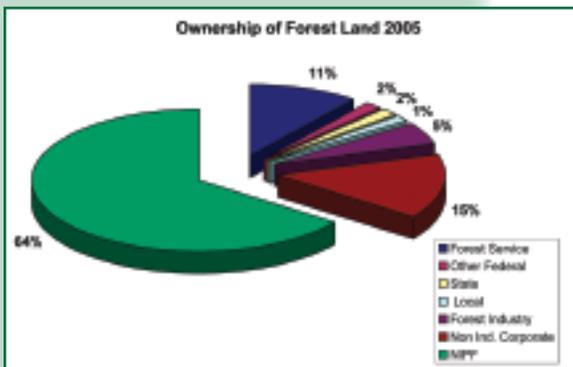


Chart 3

STAND ORIGIN

While only 14 percent or 2,237,067 acres of Virginia's forest land show evidence of planting, 59 percent of the acreage in pine and hardwood/pine types are planted.

MOST COMMON SPECIES

Statewide, by volume, yellow-poplar is the most common tree species in Virginia, followed by loblolly pine. However, if considered as a group, upland oaks make up, by far, the most volume in the state.

Conversely, looking at number of stems, relatively shade-tolerant species like red maple and blackgum, have a large impact on the rankings, due their presence in the understory as saplings.

GROWTH VS REMOVALS

Statewide, for this 2005 snapshot, growth of growing stock exceeded removals annually by 155,961,221 cubic feet. Current volume of growing stock for Virginia for 2005 is calculated at 27,170,990,455 cubic feet. For this period, removals exceeded growth in Regions 1 and 2 (Chart 4).

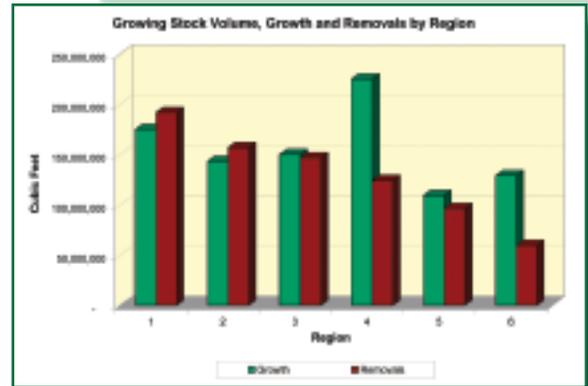


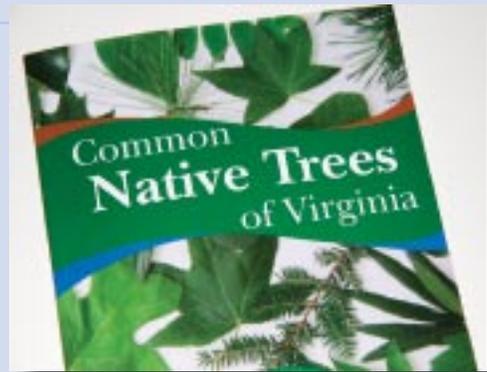
Chart 4

For additional information and charts, visit the Web site at www.dof.virginia.gov

NEW TREE ID BOOK AVAILABLE!

Submitted by Ellen Powell, conservation education coordinator, Public Information Division

After an extensive rewrite, *Common Native Trees of Virginia* is now available for purchase. The addition of a classification key, range maps, updated scientific names, clearer drawings, and more detailed descriptions make the book a good reference for anyone who wants to learn more about Virginia's trees. In addition, the book contains a wealth of additional resources, such as information on State Forests and nurseries. At \$1.00 plus shipping, the book is the best bargain around!



THOMAS HARRISON ARBOR DAY

Submitted by Bruce Harmon, forester, Region 3, Rockingham County

This year's Arbor Day celebrations included a unique opportunity offered to the special education class of Thomas Harrison Middle School. Corrine Walsh wanted an outside and physical activity for her class of eight emotionally and learning disabled students. We chose tree planting as something that would allow a hands-on experience for the kids as well as supplementing the pre-existing rain garden that was installed on the campus several years prior. Each student was given two VDOF Norway spruce to plant. Conservation Services Inc. donated the sod mats and pins. The project was to originally include pin oaks too, but I missed the opportunity to get them from the nursery in a timely manner. The tree shelter kits will be used next year as we include the hardwoods. The top soil and mulch was donated by Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation. The planting sites were rotor-tilled as the power auger would not penetrate the construction fill. The students were given a primer on planting depth, back filling, mat installation and proper mulching techniques. Corrine spent several class periods discussing Arbor Day and the benefits of trees and the connection with soils and wildlife. That being said, what the kids came away with was the memory of using the bladder bag to water the seedlings and each other. I'm looking forward to the oaks, tree tubes and next year's efforts.



Resource Management

FOCUS

VDOF RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH VOF

Submitted by Rob Farrell, assistant director for Forest Land Conservation

VDOF has signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) to foster our partnership for land conservation across the state. This new agreement provides a framework for VDOF and VOF to work toward our shared goals of forest conservation and open space preservation. Because the VOF is Virginia’s premier easement holder and an important partner in our conservation efforts, everyone at VDOF should be familiar with the VOF and how we can work together.

The VOF was established by the General Assembly in 1966 “to promote the preservation of open space lands” and to encourage gifts of property or funds to protect open space in Virginia. One of the VOF’s primary functions is to hold conservation easements. The VOF holds easements on more than 400,000 acres across the state and it is responsible for the stewardship of these lands in perpetuity.

The VDOF’s main responsibility in the agreement with VOF is to assist it with forest management guidance by providing or reviewing stewardship plans and reviewing pre-harvest plans. The agreement spells out that stewardship plans under 200 acres are free of charge and that we will provide referrals to consulting foresters for larger properties. Knowing that most of our foresters already have a stack of stewardship plan requests, the agreement does not set a deadline for when we can fulfill plan requests. The VDOF has agreed to give priority to landowners who need plans developed to fulfill the terms of their easement.

The VDOF has also agreed to assist the VOF with developing easement language regarding forest management; to provide landowners with information about the VOF, and to provide training to VOF staff on forest management. This last item may be our greatest opportunity to influence how forests are managed on conserved properties for many years.

So what do we get out of this? The MOU states that the VOF will consult VDOF regarding the stewardship of conserved forest lands and will encourage the use of appropriate forest management. The VOF will also provide information on the VDOF conservation program to landowners whose lands may be suitable for a conservation easement through the VDOF. The VOF has also agreed to provide training to VDOF on landbase conservation and VOF programs. Again, this training is a great opportunity for us. The VOF has decades of experience in helping landowners to conserve forests and farmlands – this is knowledge that we need to be able to provide to our landowners.

The VOF and VDOF can be a strong partnership for forest conservation. I hope we can all find ways to work together to achieve our common goals.

2006 VOF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS		
County	No. of Easements	Total Acreage
Top 10 Counties in 2006		
Rockbridge	34	6,918
Albemarle	25	4,500
Fauquier	22	2,782
Augusta	14	2,436
Botetourt	13	2,422
Madison	13	2,561
Greene	12	2,714
Orange	12	1,680
Rappahannock	10	1,823
Loudoun	9	741
Remaining Counties	184	42,651
Virginia Total	348	71,228

TEMPERANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RAIN GARDEN

Submitted by Bill Perry, forester, Region 3, Amherst County

This spring, the Virginia Department of Forestry teamed up with the Pedlar River Institute and the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District to construct a sizable rain garden on the site of Temperance Elementary School in Amherst County. This project was made possible by a Water Quality Improvement Fund grant from the VDOF and the generosity of many businesses and volunteers.

It came to the attention of Judy Strang of the Pedlar River Institute (PRI) that Amherst County Schools would be building a gym addition at Temperance Elementary School. This was the last of six gyms constructed at Amherst County elementary schools, and all five already constructed use conventional stormwater design. While the prototype complied with existing regulations for erosion and sediment control, it fell short of preferred site design features for water quality and quantity objectives. The Temperance gym addition thus represented an ideal opportunity to showcase low impact design (LID) benefits for stormwater quality control, groundwater recharge and functional landscaping, as compared to a conventional design. The proposed building and its site were well-suited for creating a bioretention/raingarden area that will also serve as a forested schoolyard habitat. This area will filter stormwater from the gym's roof and the surrounding paved areas that accompany this structure. Plus, being part of a school, the gym is located in a place where the bioretention area will have high visibility in the community.

Since construction was scheduled to begin in January, it was imperative that funding be secured to allow for the LID design and procurement of materials in a timely manner. While Dr. John Walker (superintendent, Amherst County Schools) was very interested in incorporating this LID design element into the school project, funding was needed to cover the immediate cost of the design change and a portion of materials cost that goes beyond the established construction budget. As a result, a Water Quality Improvement Fund grant through VDOF was obtained to help defray these added costs.

The benefits of LID site design go beyond improving erosion control, water quality and groundwater recharge. Achieving LID design for this project will create a model for the county; educate the school community, and familiarize those involved in the construction with the design and benefits of on-site stormwater treatment. The fact that conventional stormwater control measures exist on the previously built gyms will enable a clear comparison between the two approaches over time.

Williamsburg Environmental Group, an engineer firm with experience in LID design and construction, was contracted to design an end-of-pipe retention/infiltration area that was site-specific and maximizes stormwater quality control and habitat potential for the school grounds. The design interrupts the storm water pipe before it reached its planned outflow point, so that stormwater will spread out, slow down and filter into the bioretention area. VDOF used a dozer to assist in the construction of the bioretention area by grading and other site work. Mulching and planting of infiltration area was overseen by the VDOF, Robert E. Lee Soil and Water District employees, Pedlar River Institute, members of the school community, Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers, and employees of Williamsburg Environmental Group. Plantings used were donated by the Virginia Department of Forestry and other local donors. Some of the businesses whose generosity made this project possible include: Greif Brothers Riverville Plant for providing compost and mulch; Boxley Materials for providing discount rates on rock and sand;



Burley Trucking for discount rates on hauling; Environmental Erosion Control for silt fence and erosion control matting; Saunders Brothers Nursery for discount plants; Dr. Nancy Cowden for assistance in choosing the right plants for this project, and Williamsburg Environmental Group for making this project a reality.

Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

Ben Bradburn is our new watershed project leader in the Forest Resource Management Division (FRMD). He has a bachelor's in forest resource management and a master's in watershed management from Virginia Tech. He worked as a researcher last summer in the FRMD.

Lisa Deaton is our new forest education specialist. She will be developing and coordinating the conservation education program for the new Virginia Forest Education Center located at the New Kent Forestry Center and coordinating Virginia's Project Learning Tree (PLT) program. Since 1999, Lisa has served as the part-time Project Learning Tree Program coordinator.

Jason McGhee is our new Patrick County technician in Region 5. He has an associate's degree in forest management technology from Montgomery Community College. He previously served as a forest technician for Gary Gilreath Consulting Forestry in North Carolina. He is also a certified wildland firefighter.

Michelle Quesenberry is our new Buchanan County technician in Region 6. She has a bachelor's degree in recreation, parks and tourism from Radford University. Most recently, she served as a forestry technician for the USDA Forest Service. As part of that position, she was a member of the Asheville Interagency Hotshot Crew.

Paul White is our new technician for Goochland and Fluvanna counties in Region 3. He received his associate's degree in forestry from Dabney Lancaster Community College. This summer, Paul has been serving as the Region 2 intern.

John Wilburn is our new King William County forester in Region 2. He received his bachelor's degree in forestry from Virginia Tech. He previously worked as a forester for Ridgerunner Forestry.

Debbie Luna is our new program support technician in Region 4. She has an associate's degree in human services from Southside Community College. Most recently, Debbie worked for Trinity Mission of Farmville. She has extensive administrative experience.

Bryan Alexander is our new Isle of Wight County forester in Region 1. He received his bachelor's in forestry from Auburn University. He has previously worked as a research

assistant at Auburn University.

Adam Cumpston is our new Russell County forester in Region 6. He received his bachelor's in forest resource management from West Virginia University. He has experience working with the USDA Forest Service.

Brian Lacey is our new Forester for Prince George and Surry counties in Region 1. He received his bachelor's in forest resource management from Clemson University. He most recently worked with Appalachian Arborists in North Carolina and formerly worked with Bartlett Tree Experts.

William Lakel is our new water quality program supervisor. He has a bachelor's and master's degree in forestry; and a doctorate degree in forest hydrology all from Virginia Tech. Bill was most recently an instructor/research associate at Virginia Tech. He also has extensive experience in private industry working with forest harvesting.

Kenneth Cooper is our new Madison County technician. Ken comes to us from Oregon and has an associate's degree in forestry from Central Oregon Community College. He's had experience with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Brian Irvine is our new water quality engineer in Region 1. He holds a bachelor's degree in forest resource management from Virginia Tech, and most recently worked with Cranberry Resources LLC in Beckley, WV.

Bryan Litchfield, is our new FIA forester in Region 1. Bryan has worked with the FIA team on a part-time basis since 2005.

Steve McElhane, is our new Bedford County technician in Region 5. Steve completed his associate's in forestry from Dabney Lancaster Community College. He worked for us last summer as the Region 3 intern.

Alex Stace, is our new Southampton County forester in Region 1. He received his bachelor's in forestry from the University of Maine. He has experience with the Acadian Forest Ecosystem Research Program and the Maine Department of Conservation, Parks and Lands.

Ryne Conley, is our new Louisa County technician in Region 3. He has a bachelor's in forestry-environmental resource management from Virginia Tech. His experience includes working summers at Tech and with the USDA Forest Service.

Bart Pfautz, is our new technician for Chesterfield and Powhatan counties in Region 2. He received his bachelor's in biology from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina. He has worked with the National Park Service, Student Conservation Association, and, most recently, the Discovery School of Virginia.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Wanda Colvin was promoted from accountant to accounting manager in our Fiscal Division.

Jeff Darr, technician in Chesterfield County, has been promoted to forester in Gloucester County in Region 2.

David Tolliver, former technician in Buchanan County in Region 6, is our new water quality specialist in Region 6.

Joe Rosetti, former forester for Prince George County in Region 1, has transferred to the Fauquier County forester position in Region 3.

Cody Daniels, former technician in Chesapeake in Region 1, has transferred to the Isle of Wight technician position in Region 1.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

Brian Schneider, King William County forester in Region 2, left VDOF to move to North Carolina.

Steve Grayson, FIA forester for Region 6, left VDOF to return to school to obtain his master's degree.

Don Unmussig, General Services director, left VDOF to accept a position with the Loudoun County School System.

Brad Wireman, Middlesex County forester in Region 2, left VDOF to accept a position with the Ohio Department of Forestry.

Brian Rogers, Pittsylvania County technician in Region 5, accepted a position with the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources.

Abe Bear, Isle of Wight County forester in Region 1, left VDOF to move back home to Indiana.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Heather Manson, forester for Dinwiddie County in Region 1, and **Zach Dowling**, forester for Sussex County in Region 1, were married Saturday, June 16. Congratulations to

the happy couple! We wish them a long and happy marriage.

Eddie Embrey, Nelson County technician in Region 3, has a new grandchild. His daughter Tracey delivered a beautiful, healthy baby girl July 16. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces. Elin Reed Embrey Ramsey is doing great.

Clara Rowe, program support technician for Region 2, became a grandmother Friday, May 11. Her son, Michael, and daughter-in-law, Sara, had a baby boy. His name is Turpin Alexander Rowe. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces. And Clara is a grandmother again! Clara's daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Robert Hundley, had their first child June 4. Robert Justin Hundley weighed in at 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

Harold Fisher, Warren County technician in Region 3, is a new dad. James

Harold Fisher was born May 23 and



weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. Wife, Jaree, and baby are doing fine.

Will Shoup, New Kent County forester in Region 2, is a new dad. His little one, Joshua Hobbs, was 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Wife, Laura, and baby Joshua are doing well.

Karen Stanley, Rockbridge County forester in Region 5, is a new mom. Son, Roman Andrew, was born May 9, weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

Greg Estoll, Tazewell County forester in Region 6, and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed a new addition to their family. James Douglas Estoll was born July 20, weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

Rebecca Reeves, daughter of **Thomas** and **Janet Reeves**, graduated with honors from Randolph Henry High School. Rebecca, age 17, plans to pursue college and a career in the health care industry. Proud dad Thomas is our Charlotte County technician in Region 4.

Kelly Warring, daughter of **Martha** and **Bob Warring** graduated from Monticello High School June 9. She will attend the University of Mary Washington in the fall to study cultural anthropology. Proud mom Martha is our Nelson County Forester in Region 3.

CONDOLENCES

VDOF mourns the loss of an employee, **George Nelson**, program support technician in the Resource Protection Division at Central Office.

Angela Conary, program support technician for Region 1, lost her father-in-law, Louis Conary, on July 17. Our thoughts and prayers are with Angela and her family.

Steve Coleman, Brunswick County technician in Region 1, lost his father June 1.

John Graff, retired VDOF from 1949 to 1990, died July 31 at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Vaughne, and four children (John, Jr., Daniel, Andy, and Donna).

Leonard Tyree, the father of **Donnie Tyree** died June 26. Donnie has been a part-time tractor operator in Amherst County for many years and has worked with a lot of VDOF employees throughout the state.

Kevin Dawson, water quality specialist in Region 4, lost his father May 20 at age 59.

Bob Dunn, retired district forester in the old Staunton District, died May 15 at age 84. Bob started with VDOF in 1948 and retired in 1990. He is

survived by his wife, Kathryn, a daughter and two sons.

John Hisghman, technician in Frederick and Clarke counties in Region 3, lost his mother, Nancy, July 22 after a battle with cancer.

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following employees who were selected as Unit Employees of the Year:

Vance Coffey, forest management specialist, State Forests

Carolyn Haggerty, program support technician, Forestry Centers

Heather Manson, forester for Dinwiddie County, Region 1

Carrington Newsome, equipment service and repair technician, Region 2

Erik Filep, forester for Orange County, Region 3

Alex Williamson, technician for Halifax County, Region 4

Stuart Sours, water quality specialist, Region 5

Steve Counts, resource specialist, Region 6

Janet Muncy, production coordinator, Central Office

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jeffrey W. Stout ~ Oct. 2 (NK)
David W. Tolliver ~ Oct. 4 (R6)
Neil A. Brooks ~ Oct. 5 (R5)
Karen E. Snape ~ Oct. 5 (R2)
Erik P. Filep ~ Oct. 6 (R3)
Richard T. Thomas ~ Oct. 6 (CO)
C. Brian Ledford ~ Oct. 8 (R6)
William L. Apperson ~ Oct. 8 (R2)
William J. Shoup ~ Oct. 11 (R2)
R. Randy Fleming ~ Oct. 12 (R6)
Nelson J. Shaw ~ Oct. 12 (R3)
Lewis E. Rhodes ~ Oct. 15 (R3)
Christopher Owens ~ Oct. 16 (R6)
Chad D. Stover ~ Oct. 16 (R3)
Timothy C. Tigner ~ Oct. 16 (Ret)
William L. Shockley ~ Oct. 17 (Ret)
J. Bruce Edwards ~ Oct. 18 (R1)
Thomas E. Harlan ~ Oct. 19 (R2)
Robert K. Lewis ~ Oct. 19 (R1)
Lawrence Mikkelsen ~ Oct. 19 (CO)
Steven E. Coleman ~ Oct. 22 (R1)

Janie E. Harris ~ Oct. 22 (Ret)
Michael Stoneburner ~ Oct. 24 (CO)
Paul D. Stoneburner ~ Oct. 25 (R3)
R. Dean Lowdermilk ~ Oct. 25 (GG)
G. Thomas Nunnally ~ Oct. 25 (R1)
Marcellus E. Rose ~ Oct. 28 (AG)
Frederick X. Turck ~ Oct. 30 (CO)
Jana T. Maynard ~ Oct. 31 (R6)
Gregory S. Estoll ~ Nov. 1 (R6)
Vance L. Coffey ~ Nov. 1 (SF)
James D. Starr ~ Nov. 4 (Ret)
Tracy D. McDonald ~ Nov. 7 (CO)
J. Stephen Pence ~ Nov. 8 (R3)
Onesphore Bitoki ~ Nov. 10 (NK)
Gregory A. Farrish ~ Nov. 10 (CO)
Daniel C. Roberts ~ Nov. 10 (R2)
Jeffrey J. Darr ~ Nov. 12 (R2)
T. Nelson Hillyer ~ Nov. 12 (R2)
James W. Garner ~ Nov. 13 (Ret)
L. Gerald Shifflett ~ Nov. 18 (CO)
Matthew M. Poirot ~ Nov. 19 (CO)
Kevin S. Dawson ~ Nov. 20 (R4)

Faye E. DiFazio ~ Nov. 23 (CO)
Stuart L. Sours ~ Nov. 23 (R5)
M. Ann Irving ~ Nov. 25 (Ret)
Thomas W. Mallory ~ Nov. 25 (CO)
Matthew R. Spencer ~ Nov. 25 (R5)
Stephen McElhaney ~ Nov. 26 (R5)
Bonnie Q. Ragland ~ Nov. 29 (CO)
James E. Cook ~ Nov. 30 (Ret)
Edward H. Zimmer ~ Nov. 30 (R1)
Thomas M. Pleasants ~ Dec. 1 (Ret)
Joyce M. Landram ~ Dec. 3 (AG)
Leslie C. Mace ~ Dec. 5 (R5)
Lawrence Tankersley ~ Dec. 5 (R6)
Benjamin N. Bradburn ~ Dec. 6 (CO)
William B. Carlton ~ Dec. 6 (R2)
Lewis F. Southard ~ Dec. 7 (Ret)
Patricia F. Nylander ~ Dec. 7 (R3)
Jason T. Upton ~ Dec. 9 (R1)
Tanya J. White ~ Dec. 9 (R1)
Robert W. Stempel ~ Dec. 9 (R1)
John C. Hisghman ~ Dec. 11 (R3)
Wayne F. Bowman ~ Dec. 12 (CO)
William E. Perry ~ Dec. 12 (R3)
Justin E. Funk ~ Dec. 13 (R4)

Jeffrey L. Hensley ~ Dec. 14 (CO)
James F. Wagner ~ Dec. 14 (Ret)
Donald L. Foster ~ Dec. 14 (Ret)
James H. Blackwell ~ Dec. 17 (R1)
Ronald S. Jenkins ~ Dec. 18 (CO)
Daniel B. Fortune ~ Dec. 18 (CO)
Jonathan R. Pine ~ Dec. 18 (R3)
David K. Nabers ~ Dec. 18 (CO)
Henry E. Womack ~ Dec. 21 (R4)
Carl E. Garrison ~ Dec. 22 (CO)
Stephen F. Grayson ~ Dec. 22 (CO)
Everette "Buck" Kline ~ Dec. 22 (R3)
R. Brad Whittington ~ Dec. 23 (R4)
James W. Bright ~ Dec. 24 (Ret)
Terry H. Brennen ~ Dec. 25 (SF)
W. Chad Austin ~ Dec. 26 (R6)
Ellen R. Powell ~ Dec. 27 (CO)
Thomas A. Callahan ~ Dec. 28 (CO)
Thomas W. Reeves ~ Dec. 30 (R4)
Charles L. Hutsell ~ Dec. 30 (R5)
Walter Washington ~ Dec. 30 (Ret)
John M. Carroll ~ Dec. 30 (CO)
J. Riley Bruce ~ Dec. 31 (R6)
Patrick M. Murphy ~ Dec. 31 (R4)



Mail Bag

Submitted by Will Shoup, forester, Region 2, Charles City and New Kent counties

Thomas Moore is 12-13 years old and needed to get his Forestry Merit Badge before he could go out on his first Boy Scout Camporee. He was very enthusiastic and truly interested in listening to all I had to say and show him. Looks like a possible future forester in the works.

July 9, 2007

Re: Boy Scout Forestry Merit Badge

Dear Mr. Shoup:

I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with me to discuss opportunities with Forestry and thank you for your help with answering questions necessary for completing the requirements for the Boy Scout Forestry Merit Badge. Your assistance and willingness to answer my questions is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Moore
Mechanicsville, VA*

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**

The deadlines are as follows:

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2007

Spring Issue -- February 1, 2008

Summer Issue -- May 1, 2008

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2008

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please notify of address corrections