

Forestry News



Spring 2010

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

Carl Garrison, State Forester

Janet Muncy, Editor

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In Memorium

By Carl Garrison, state forester

Saturday morning brought us the terrible news that Alex Williamson was taken from us in what can be described only as a freak accident. When I got the first call, I simply couldn't believe it. I didn't want to believe it. Sadly, however, it was true. And we lost one of VDOF's greats this weekend.

Over his 35-year VDOF career, Alex had a hand in shaping virtually every active wildland firefighter in Virginia. Whether training a new employee; enhancing the skills of an experienced veteran, or working side by side with someone on a fire or some other emergency situation, Alex was the consummate professional everyone looked to for direction. He always answered the call for help, and, in typical Alex fashion, he was usually offering to help before the call was ever made. We all counted on him, and he never let us down.

I'm not sure if he had a personal motto, but if he did it surely must have been: Service To Others Before Self. Whether it was service to his country in the US Air Force; service to his state through the VDOF; service to his community through a multitude of organizations; service to his faith, or service to his beloved family, Alex gave his all and never expected anything in return.

Anyone who met Alex was made better by the encounter. Every person took away something positive from the interaction because each took a little of Alex with them. So, even though Alex has gone to a better place, he's still with each and every one of us because he lives within us all. His was a life well lived. May he now rest in peace.



A Message from the State Forester, Carl Garrison



Well, it took an extra day, but the General Assembly has crafted a biennial budget for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. It's not all roses and sunshine, but it's certainly better for us than what might have been. And, of course, this is not final until Governor McDonnell has signed it. But let me share with you what the plan looks like and what impacts it will have on you and our agency.

- ✦ There are no planned state employee furloughs in either of the two upcoming fiscal years (yes, there is still the one furlough day May 28 of this current fiscal year).
- ✦ Current state employees will not be required to contribute to their retirement program (earlier proposals called for a 1 percent contribution in 2011 and a 2 percent contribution in 2012).

- ✦ All employees hired on or after July 1, 2010 will have 5 percent of their salary deducted for their retirement.

- ✦ The 3 percent employee bonus will be paid in December 2010 only if the state has generated sufficient revenue to cover this one-time payment.

- ✦ The VDOF will lose \$422,000 in funds used to pay for our master equipment leases and some proposed maintenance.

- ✦ Some of the proposed RT funding match was restored, but we will still see a reduction of \$372,000 in FY 2011 and \$447,000 in FY 2012.

I know you join me in commending the Governor and the General Assembly for working hard to craft a new budget that enables us to continue to provide for public safety as well as the delivery of our core services in the face of unprecedented fiscal constraints.

VDOF Mourns

By Janet Muncy, Forestry News editor

Virginia Department of Forestry will never be the same. March 13th will be remembered as the day we lost our colleague, our mentor, our friend.

He's touched so many lives and will live in our hearts forever. Words really can't do justice to the legacy left by Alex Williamson.

Alex often commented on the

Forestry News; how he looked forward to each issue; how he wished it were still printed and mailed; but that it was a great way to keep connected to his VDOF family across the state. Those of you that knew him, knew he was not a computer kind of guy.

In honor of Alex, we would like to produce a special edition of Forestry News dedicated to his memory. I encourage you to share your memories and photos for inclusion in this special edition.

Please submit your stories and accompanying photos to me by email by April 5. As is the case for myself, there are so many fond memories of Alex, so I ask that each of you keep your story to approximately 200 words so we can share as many memories as possible.

Submission Deadline: April 5



VDOF on Snow Patrol

By Janet Muncy, graphic specialist, Public Information Division

A winter for the record books – by my count, about 54 inches at my house northwest of Charlottesville so far this winter! I don't know how many of you remember the last time we had one substantial snow one after another here in Virginia, but it was some time ago. As most of you who see me around the office know... I love the snow; so I'm enjoying this winter very much. Virginia is a beautiful state and is even more beautiful when coated with a blanket of white snow. I sincerely hope everyone was able to take a few moments to simply enjoy the beauty of the snow. But, as we all know, the snow, especially the heavy amounts that we received thus far, isn't without consequence.

It's the week before Christmas and we're all hurrying about taking care of last minute holiday preparations. Alas... a blanket of snow arrives in Virginia leaving about 30 inches of snow in my area. Yet this was only the beginning of what would be a long, white winter in Virginia.

As the state and local resources worked furiously to handle this substantial snow, VDOF responded to the call for help in numerous counties, including Buchanan, Dickinson, Nelson, Rockbridge, Russell and Wise. VDOF deployed chainsaw crews to help with clearing roads and gaining access to stranded citizens, as well as clearing access to 911 radio towers, treatment plants and other critical areas. We also provided incident management assistance to state and local emergency operations centers (EOCs).

At the end of January, a snowstorm went across the southeast part of Virginia – an area definitely not used to heavy snowfall. VDOF crews again supported Middlesex, Gloucester and Bedford counties to clear snow and debris following this January storm.

Here we go again... yet another storm February 5-6 dropping up to 20 inches of fresh snow. This storm, and the heavy, wet snow that it brought, left a lot of damage... downed trees, collapsing roofs and power outages. Again, VDOF responded to the call for help, sending chainsaw crews, dozer crews and equipment operators out to Shenandoah, Bedford, Fluvanna, Tazewell, Pittsylvania, Fauquier and Rappahannock counties, along with the Town of Tappahannock.



Fluvanna County snow response (photo provided by Tom Snoddy, forester, Spotsylvania County.)

With the anticipation of a fourth snowstorm coming February 9-10, the City of Alexandria requested incident management assistance. VDOF responded with a team of seven to assist with its emergency snow operations. It was this deployment to which I was assigned, along with Brad Wright (PT), Jim Bowling, Alex Williamson, Neal Oberholtzer, Chris Sullivan and Fred Turck. The City of Alexandria, not unlike other localities, had its hands full. Just the nature of an urban environment, it was out of room to push the snow. Our team deployed February 9 and was divided up to help in several capacities upon arrival in Alexandria. Neal Oberholtzer and Jim Bowling were assigned to the Fire Operations branch to help with managing its emergency response operations, which were hindered, obviously, with accessibility issues. Fred Turck and Chris Sullivan were assigned to the EOC to work with its planning section, assisting in developing the incident action plans for each shift. Brad Wright, Alex Williamson and myself were assigned to Snow Operations. We were tasked with helping to get a handle on the total equipment in operation; to improve its record keeping to enable it to track the necessary information that the city will need for FEMA reimbursement, and to transition them over to their own operation once the snow event passed and the EOC began turning the closing operations over to Snow Ops.

I found it interesting to learn how the snow operations were tracked. To see the dispatch in process where the equipment operators report in by radio where they are clearing, which was logged and entered into a GIS system

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VDOF on Snow Patrol, from page 3

that generated a visual map of which roads had been plowed once; were passable; treated with salt or sand, or were cleared completely. With this much snow, officials had to prioritize the roads and be sure main routes were passable first for emergency traffic. We also had a group that was locating and clearing snow from fire hydrants, which were buried and inaccessible. Another group worked with emergency facilities to be sure shelters and other critical facilities were accessible. There were also roof inspections of public buildings – as the weight of this snow caused some roof collapses and damage. Another group was assigned to trees – cutting and clearing downed trees that were blocking roads and other emergency accesses.

On the up side to this situation, Old Town Alexandria (King Street down to the waterfront of the Potomac River) was like a Currier and Ives winter scene on Wednesday night. While it is unfortunate for the businesses there that lost days or even a week of business being closed, such a busy city was so tranquil.

The city street and sidewalks were completely covered in snow; the benches were hidden under snow and the white

lights in the trees along the sidewalks felt like a snowy Christmas. Though we were late getting back to our hotel on King Street that night, I just had to bundle up and take a walk down this historic street in the winter wonderland.

Once the blizzard conditions passed on Wednesday, the city was able to make great progress in clearing. Thursday and Friday, we prepared to transition the operation from the EOC to Snow Ops. We developed an incident action plan for the Snow Operations branch that would still have work to do for days to come, but the immediate emergency was passing. We finished up last-minute details and headed home that Friday.

Thank you to all who responded to the call for help. The localities and citizens served are grateful for support and assistance. We are fortunate to have such dedicated, capable folks who can respond to any emergency when needed.



Alexandria team gets briefed on the situation.



Team gets direction from the Planning Section Chief.



Chris Sullivan works on the incident action plan.

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VDOF on Snow Patrol, from page 4



Old Town Alexandria – like a Currier and Ives scene.



Loaders fill dump trucks with snow to haul away to an out-of-the-way location to eventually melt.

Thank You!

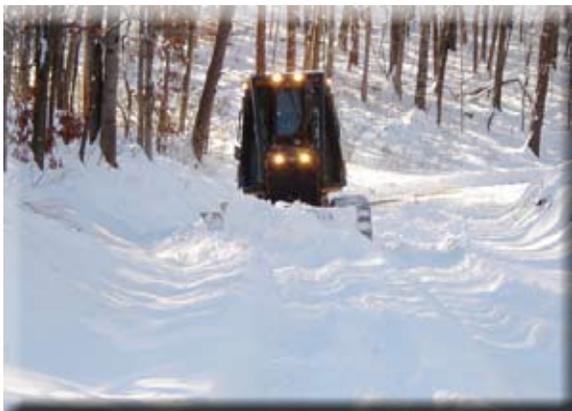
Drew Arnn
Chris Asaro
Chad Austin
Justin Barnes
Bryant Bays
Douglas Benson (PT)
Jordon Blouse (PT)
Jim Bowling
Jason Braunstein
Dan Bush (PT)
Chris Clayton
Warren Coeburn
Gerald Crowell
Jeff Darr
Justin Dillon

Randy Fleming
Brent Foltz (PT)
Steven Foltz (PT)
Donnie Garman
Dennis Gaston
Matt Gordon
Kevin Hancock (PT)
Mike Herron (PT)
Joshua Hileman (PT)
Nelson Hillyer
Anthony Horton (PT)
Travis Jefferson (PT)
Derek Kiser
Charlie Knoeller
Brian Lacy

Terry Lasher
Joe Lehen
Shannon Lewis
Leslie Mace
Pat McWilliams (PT)
Dave Milby
Bill Miller
John Miller
John Moore (PT)
Janet Muncy
John Murphy (PT)
Kevin Musgrove (PT)
Neil Oberholtzer
Kathleen Ogilvy
David Powell

Jim Pugh
Paul Revell
Darwin Rhodes (PT)
Danny Roberts
Houston Roberts
Joe Rossetti
Mike Salyer
Micah Sexton (PT)
Michael Shaver (PT)
Randy Short
Anne Skalski
Alvie Sparks (PT)
Mike Sparks (PT)
William Stanley (PT)
Richard Steensma

Mike Stoneburner
Chris Sullivan
Kenny Thomas
Fred Turck
Donnie Tyree (PT)
Andrew White (PT)
Mark White (PT)
Alex Williamson
Chuck Wright
Brad Wright (P-14/PT)
Kevin Yost (PT)



Bedford County Snow Response

By Justin Dillon, technician, Bedford County, Western Region

During the recent winter storm, the Virginia Department of Forestry was called upon to assist the Department of Transportation with snow removal after Gov. Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency. According to Gary Cumby, the transportation manager of the Irving Area Headquarters, VDOT's goal is to have all roads passable within 48 hours after a storm ends. Technicians Justin Dillon and Jon Willoughby spent nearly 30 hours pushing snow on rural roads in Bedford County, VA, helping to achieve this goal.

Land Conservation 2009

By Rob Suydam, Mike Santucci, Rob Farrell,
Forestland Conservation Division

The VDOF land conservation program was established to reduce the rate of forest conversion due to development. With limited state funding available for land conservation, the program focuses on making voluntary land conservation tools available to forest landowners who are interested in maintaining their land as working forests. While this includes working with localities, the most visible part of the program involves conservation easements and acquisitions. Since 2007, more than 24,000 acres have been protected by land acquisition and more than 25 conservation easements. More acres (15,800 acres) were conserved in 2009 than ever before for the VDOF including the new state forest at Moore's Creek in Rockbridge County and a 7,750-acre addition to the Dragon Run State Forest.

The last VDOF easement recorded in 2009 was one of our best yet. The Feedstone Hunting Club easement will preserve 1,101 acres of Virginia's signature landscape of rolling vistas and tree-cloaked mountains. Feedstone is one of the oldest incorporated hunt clubs in Virginia, having been formed in 1951. Members had been concerned about protecting the land they had been hunting for several generations. Although up-front costs threatened to derail the process, a Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) grant program enabled the VDOF to purchase a portion of the easement at the appraised value, which covered the out-of-pocket costs to the club. Feedstone donated the balance of the easement. Mineral rights that had been severed from the title in 1858 presented a significant challenge to overcome, but after much research, the VDOF determined that the risk to the easement was remote. The Feedstone easement protects the entire complement of conservation values to the fullest extent, from working forest and uncommon cover types, to water quality, scenic viewsheds and significant natural



heritage resources. Most importantly, it helped the hunt club achieve its goal of forever protecting the land as the members have known it.

In December 2009, we also recorded the largest VDOF conservation easement to date. The easement on the Wright Forestry LLC property protects more than 2,300 acres near Blackridge in eastern Mecklenburg County and just over the line in Brunswick County. The Wrights are second-generation loggers who have done considerable planting and pine timber management on their property. Because of the size and scope of this property, made up of eight different farms, the easement presented some unique opportunities and

challenges. The Wright easement allows more property divisions than is typical, but requires that the property be maintained as large farms with small house sites to maximize the potential for forest management. This large easement also required our biggest baseline documentation effort ever with help from Mike Santucci, Neal Oberholtzer and Brad Whittington.

VDOF's local area foresters and technicians can have a significant impact in the protection of forestland. While Goochland Area Forester Chuck Wright was fighting a fire and saving the home of a local forest landowner, Chuck happened to mention the Department having a forestland conservation program. As a result of this conversation, 129 acres of forest in Goochland County have now been protected by a conservation easement, as has the family interest that was vested nearly 30 years ago when they first began to manure the forest. The level of trust our landowners have for the Department, and the good that can be made of it, is immeasurable and not to be underestimated.

As 2009 has passed, the prospects for forest conservation in 2010 look promising as well. In just a few weeks, it is quite likely the Department will have already protected more

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Land Conservation 2009, from page 6

than 1,000 acres of land through conservation easements. In addition, several local programs that promote land conservation – such as Tomorrow Woods in southeast Virginia; the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program at Fort Pickett, and the Forest 2 Faucets program in the upper Rivanna watershed – will provide more incentives for forestland conservation. We look forward to more and more forest landowners, their families and their future families benefiting from the forestland conservation services provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry.



Western Region Equipment Training

By Steve Counts, regional resource specialist, and Kenny Doss, equipment repair technician, Western Region

On Jan. 19, 2010, the Western Region hosted an Equipment Training Workshop at the Matthews State Forest. The workshop provided training for full-time employees on maintenance and safety of VDOF transports, tractors and pickups. This served as an opportunity to bring together equipment repair technicians and field personnel to examine proper procedures for the maintenance and upkeep of equipment used by the Department in fire suppression and operations.

The lead instructor for the event was Kenny Doss, equipment repair technician from the VDOF Abingdon office. Kenny was instrumental in organizing and developing the format for the workshop. Other instructors were Wayne Perfater, Danny Fortune, David Edwards, Charlie Yopp and Steve Counts.

Topics covered by the workshop included: maintenance schedules; track inspection guidelines; pre-trip vehicle inspections, and safe loading and unloading of tractor plow units. The workshop

involved both classroom and field exercises. After completing the classroom portion of the training, participants moved to the garage where instructors walked everyone through the service procedures on two different types of dozers, a transport and a pickup. The workshop was an opportunity for field personnel to ask questions of Danny Fortune, fleet manager, and involved hands-on training of how to properly maintain equipment. Properly-maintained equipment will last longer and operate more efficiently. With the ongoing budget concerns, it is now even more important to operate equipment as efficiently as possible.



VDOF Achieves in Green Challenge

By Ron Jenkins, assistant state forester

In December 2009, then-Gov. Timothy M. Kaine announced the winners of the Green Commonwealth Challenge. Six months earlier, as part of Executive Order 82, the Governor challenged state agencies to reduce pollution and become more sustainable. The employees of the Department of Forestry answered the Governor's challenge in a big way!

The Challenge invited agencies to use the period of June 15 through November 15 to see how many deliberate, voluntary actions to reduce impacts to the environment could be achieved.

VDOF employees accepted the challenge to reduce their environmental impacts with enthusiasm and accomplished a lot! Employees saved the agency money, and reduced its energy consumption. Mileage, electrical consumption, teleconferencing, teleworking, ridesharing and recycling were many ways employees in all work areas accomplished successes.

The Challenge was entirely voluntary. Thirty-seven state agencies chose to participate, and all of them implemented practices to make government more efficient with regard to travel, electricity consumption and recycling, according to the Governor's news release.

Reports from agencies across the Commonwealth demonstrated that employees and agency leaders were actively looking for ways to become more sustainable. Many agencies reported additional activities they were undertaking beyond those contained in the challenge. For example, numerous agencies reduced water consumption through plumbing improvements and reduced the use of paper by conducting more business electronically. VDOF had already made huge progress in reducing its water consumption, but has made additional improvements. Some former grassy yards were converted to wildlife habitat, eliminating the need for lawn mowing time and energy expense. Finally, VDOF has made significant reductions in "hard-copy" printing. More than ever in its history, DOF has relied on its Web site and the Internet to conduct business in the electronic mode, saving the agency tens of thousands of dollars.

Because the Challenge was a short-term effort, it focused on metrics that could easily be measured. The Challenge encouraged agencies to reduce business-related driving through the use of conference calls and carpooling to meetings. Employees were also challenged to employ alternative means of commuting, such as teleworking. These efforts resulted both in the conservation of gasoline and the reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants. The Challenge also asked agencies to report on their recycling programs and any reductions they were able to achieve in their electricity bills over the prior year.

Results reported as achieved by the VDOF include:

- ✦ The avoidance of 66 in-person meetings and the saving of 12,237 miles through in-person meeting avoidance and carpooling.
- ✦ VDOF avoided almost 1,067 individual car trips through the use of carpooling to meetings.
- ✦ Many miles were saved in personal vehicles through alternative commuting.
- ✦ VDOF reporting successful recycling of paper, plastics, aluminum, mixed steel metals, brass, tires and batteries.

VDOF had many individual success stories aiding the success of our challenge attributed to its employees. Here are just a few additional accomplishments achieved during this five-month "green challenge" period.

1. Our fiscal data showed that during the first three months of the pilot project, the VDOF had saved approximately 3.5 percent in electrical expenses.
2. Aging florescent lighting fixtures are being changed from our old magnetic ballasts in the florescent systems to electronic ballasts. This will also result in savings for our electrical bill and also decrease the number of light bulbs needed to be installed. In addition, the new system provides brighter light.
3. Office staff are monitoring their lights and heating/cooling needs and making critical adjustments to reduce energy consumption.

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Green Challenge, from page 8

4. B&G crew is making important energy efficiency improvements during its building maintenance projects.
5. Fleet managers are making important decisions to improve fuel economy in the VDOF fleet.

Employees of the VDOF rose to this voluntary challenge and succeeded in reducing its energy consumption. In many

ways, the Challenge just raised the bar a bit higher because employees of the agency have always been active in reducing its consumption of energy and saving scarce agency funds. Interestingly, employees challenged their ingenuity and creativity to do even more! Even though the voluntary challenge is officially over, we must continue to use these smart approaches to saving energy. The agency's leadership is very proud of these accomplishments and deeply appreciates the efforts of everyone making a difference in the agency's energy management.

Wildlife Management through Forest Management

By Chad Austin, technician, Grayson County, Western Region

On Feb. 04, 2010, another successful workshop was held at the Matthews Education and Conference Center. The workshop was titled Wildlife Habitat Improvement through Forest Management. This workshop was a collaborative effort with Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, National Wild Turkey Federation, RC&D Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Quality Deer Management Association and Pennington Seed Company. I would like to thank everyone who participated in,

assisted with, and orchestrated the program. A special thank you goes to Ellen Powell for her educational grant program and The Matthews Foundation.

Landowners were treated to a warm meal and a VDOF tree ID book. Speakers included Bill Bassinger, regional wildlife biologist; Chad Austin, Grayson County technician; Donnie Garman, Grayson County forester, and Brad Carico, regional engineer. Each speaker provided the landowners with technical information regarding forest management and wildlife habitat enhancement. Topics the wildlife biologist covered were habitat requirements of five commonly desired game species: whitetail deer, black bear, eastern wild turkey, bob-white quail and ruffed grouse. Topics covered by the technician were timber stand improvement, food plots and stewardship planning. The forester covered the various incentive programs available for implementation of forestry and wildlife projects. The regional engineer discussed the importance of riparian buffers and CREP plantings to wildlife.

One idea that has been used in this workshop and was found to be very successful was to utilize existing email addresses for landowners. A list was also generated during sign in for the workshop and can be saved in the contacts folder of our email accounts. The folder then can be used to provide the group with future seminars, cost-share programs, deadlines for applications or other important information. The contacts list can be updated when other participants' information is acquired. This list should be beneficial going forward for the local VDOF office and local cooperating agencies.



All of This on 18 Acres?

By Randy Short, forester, Washington County, Western Region

With my job as the area forester for the Virginia Department of Forestry, I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet some great folks along the way. We are always “tooting our own horn” in the Forestry News. So, I thought I would do something different and feature a couple of folks who are working to improve the natural resources in their own backyard.



Richard and Gail Olson purchased a cabin and approximately 18 acres of property in Washington County four years ago. After raising two children and successful careers, the Olson's decided that it was time to make a move. They left Oak Ridge, TN, and moved to the cabin and property just west of Bristol. Richard and Gail are originally from Wisconsin. This is where their love for the outdoors began. Richard's parents started a tree farm in Wisconsin, which he and his brothers still own and manage (Steinhausen Inc). In 2006, Richard contacted Golden Sands RC&D with a request for assistance with the establishment of a “permaculture” demonstration. This agro-forestry demonstration includes the planting of more than 40 varieties and species of fruit, nut and berry plants; organic weed control; solar powered deer fencing; roof runoff water catchments and storage, and a drip irrigation system. Their tree farm also has a long history of working with the

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, as well as a variety of state and federal agencies.

I first met the Olson's on their property in Washington County a few years ago. We walked over the property discussing their objectives and some different ideas. As we talked, I noticed that they were not asking general questions like most landowners but more specific questions. And, they also seemed to be very knowledgeable concerning natural resources. This was before I knew that Gail was an avid Master Gardener with an extensive knowledge of plants, and Richard has graduated with a degree in forestry from the University of Idaho. Talk about intimidating!

After completing a stewardship plan outlining their goals and objectives, we began to implement some of the practices we discussed. The Olson's applied for and received FLEP funding for the control of invasive species, such as Japanese honeysuckle, Chinese privet and Nepalese browntop. We conducted a prescribed burn to assist with this effort approximately two years ago with work still ongoing. Richard and Gail also have been working to restore native warm season grasses on their property. With assistance from the WHIP program, they recently applied glyphosate to a fescue field and followed up with a prescribed burn to prepare the site for planting. They hope to have the grasses sown this summer. This will provide wonderful habitat for a variety of wildlife, such as songbirds, rabbits, Bobwhite quail and whitetail deer. Also, they have planted Canaan Fir in the back of their property for Christmas trees. They hope to have enough to share with family and friends in a few years.



As you can see, they have really packed a lot into 18 acres. When all of the work is completed, this will be the most ecologically diverse 18 acres you could imagine, and could serve as a great example of what can be done on a relatively small area.

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All of This on 18 Acres, from page 10

But wait; there's more. Have I talked about the cabin? The cabin is located in the middle of the 18 acres and looks like it grew there. The previous owner moved the cabin from adjoining Scott County in 1989. It was constructed in the 1870s and was actually two separate cabins combined into one. Since purchasing the cabin, the Olsons have remodeled parts of the inside of the cabin, as well as building an addition. Richard and Gail are not only good at managing natural resources but utilizing them as well. From the property, they took trees, which were either unhealthy or had toppled over, and used them for the construction of the addition. The trees were milled locally and used for siding, flooring, ceilings and even shingles. A wide variety of species were used. This resulted in a striking contrast of color and texture. Red oak was used for the siding and back deck flooring; black cherry for the flooring, and yellow poplar bark for the shingles. With the exception of the structural material, all of the wood came from trees on their property.

The Olsons have shown that you do not need to own a huge piece of land to make a difference. They have done more on 18 acres than most folks get done on 100 acres!



It is very rewarding and easy to work with landowners like the Olsons who sincerely appreciate and care for the resources that surround them. I am looking forward to observing the continued evolution of their property into a prime example of ecological diversity!

Healthy Watershed Through a Healthy Forest Initiative

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities has awarded the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) a \$400,000 grant to introduce a sustainable forestry demonstration project in Central Virginia's South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir Watershed that will link landowners' financial interests and their forestland management practices in this area to urban consumers of the municipal water supply to influence landowner behavior in a way that reduces the costs of both urban and rural users of the water resource.

The three-year project in Albemarle County will educate local governments, businesses, environmental entities and landowners on the value of forests and the ecosystem services they provide. Special emphasis will be placed

on the environmental value-added contributions that occur when investing in natural infrastructure versus engineered technologies.

"Expensive, engineered technologies address the pollutant of concern," said Buck Kline, VDOF's director of forestland conservation, "but often contribute little to improving other environmental values, such as air quality, biodiversity or carbon sequestration. This project will move beyond basic research to increase forest cover and the ecosystem services forests provide."

The services of greatest interest are water quality (sediment and nutrient load reduction) and carbon sequestration. Virginia's Nutrient Credit Trading Program recognizes that establishing new forest cover through afforestation generates a nutrient load reduction (nitrogen and phosphorus) credit larger than any other offset practice.

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Project Learning Tree® Goes to College

By Lisa Deaton, forest education specialist, Public Information Division

Virginia Project Learning Tree has focused on expanding its outreach to pre-service teachers at our colleges and universities over the past several years thanks to funding from the MeadWestvaco Foundation, Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation and American Forest Foundation. In 2009, 458 pre-service teachers learned how to use Project Learning Tree activities for effective lessons during coursework at Virginia Tech, Marymount University, James Madison University, Randolph-Macon College, Christopher Newport University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Hollins University, Mary Baldwin College, Radford University and the University of Richmond.

Overall, 72 Project Learning Tree workshops were held in Virginia in 2009 for 1,205 educators. Thank you to the following facilitators for volunteering their time to lead workshops:

- ✻ Jeff Kirwan, Virginia Tech Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation
- ✻ Denny McCarthy, VDOF, Salem
- ✻ Amber Hodges, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Roanoke



On Jan. 13, 2010, Kathleen Ogilvy, Will Shoup and Maggie Hilliard led a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop for Randolph-Macon College students. The students thoroughly enjoyed a full day of indoor and outdoor PLT activities. They were very excited to receive free copies of the PLT Pre-K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide as they prepare for their student teaching assignments this spring in Hanover County elementary and middle schools.

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Healthy Watershed, from page 11

The South Fork Rivanna Reservoir is the principal water source for 82,000 people in the Charlottesville area, and its watershed supplies approximately 96 percent of the surface water supply for the area, yet most of the property in the watershed is privately owned. The goal of this program is to maintain and expand forest cover in the watershed.

“Landowners who participate will receive long-term cash payments for increasing forest cover through afforestation on their property,” Kline said. Afforestation is the practice of planting new forests on lands that are currently open.

“We will also use one-time cash payments for conservation easements that protect working forests; stream restoration work done in conjunction with forested buffers, and complete stabilization of forest harvest sites,” Kline said.

Project partners include: VDOF; Conserv; Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority; Albemarle County Service Authority; Rivanna River Basin Commission; Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District; Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; City of Charlottesville; County of Albemarle, as well as watershed landowners and businesses. The “Forests to Faucets Advisory Council” will offer technical and policy support to VDOF and Conserv.

Project Learning Tree, from page 12

- ✿ Stephanie Huckestein, Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech
- ✿ Michelle Dickerson, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Montgomery County
- ✿ Susan Barnes, James Madison University
- ✿ Mary Handley, James Madison University
- ✿ Patsy Salyers, James Madison University
- ✿ Cindy Klevickis, James Madison University
- ✿ Terrie Rife, James Madison University
- ✿ Kathleen Ogilvy, VDOF, Ashland
- ✿ Maggie Hilliard, Hanover County Public Schools, retired
- ✿ Heather Finch, Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division
- ✿ Meg Doppee, Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District
- ✿ Paul Fleisher, Virginia Commonwealth University
- ✿ Rebecca Reiff, Hollins University
- ✿ Debbie Blanton, Hampton Clean City Commission
- ✿ Shirley Sypolt, Hampton City Schools
- ✿ LaVonne Hoffman, Hampton City Schools
- ✿ Carrie Edwards, Henrico County Public Schools
- ✿ Safiya Samman, USDA Forest Service
- ✿ Rob Barnovsky, Loudoun County Parks
- ✿ Neil Clark, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Southeast District
- ✿ Joe Rossetti, VDOF, Warrenton
- ✿ Linda Ries, USDA Forest Service, retired
- ✿ Heather Barrar, Chesterfield County Planning Department
- ✿ Usha Rajdev, Marymount University
- ✿ Imad Aoun, American Forest Foundation
- ✿ Emily Ford, State Arboretum at Blandy Farm
- ✿ Lisa Green, State Arboretum at Blandy Farm
- ✿ Barry Fox, Virginia Cooperative Extension, retired
- ✿ Carol Zokaite, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Christiansburg
- ✿ Warn Gillies, Bowie State University
- ✿ Hugh Beard, Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
- ✿ Karen Little, Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools
- ✿ Elizabeth Miller, Virginia Aquarium
- ✿ Elizabeth Burke, Mud Pie Planet
- ✿ Bill Worrell, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Southwest District
- ✿ Zachary Olinger, VDOF, Galax
- ✿ Kathy McGlauffin, American Forest Foundation
- ✿ Al Stenstrup, American Forest Foundation
- ✿ Terry Milton, Loudoun County Public Schools
- ✿ Ellen Reynolds, Beagle Ridge Herb Farm
- ✿ Nancy Drumheller, Central Virginia Waste Management Authority
- ✿ Stacy Lipari, City of Richmond Public Schools
- ✿ Jutta Koska, Maymont Nature Center
- ✿ Jackie Stallard, American Forest Foundation
- ✿ Ann Mary Roberts, Radford University
- ✿ Kari Abbott, Virginia Cooperative Extension – James City County
- ✿ Christina Wade, Hopewell City Schools
- ✿ Anne Mannarino, Virginia Beach City Public Schools
- ✿ Betty Gatewood, Mary Baldwin College
- ✿ Holly Carson, Keep Norfolk Beautiful
- ✿ Ashley Brownley, Nauticus, National Maritime Center
- ✿ Sandra Jewell, Mecklenburg County Public Schools
- ✿ Chris Lichty, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Pulaski County
- ✿ LoriAnne Barnett, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Albemarle County
- ✿ Patricia Stohr-Hunt, University of Richmond

Central Blue Ridge Wildland Firefighter Training

By Martha Warring, forester, Nelson County, Central Region

Each year, part-time firefighters from Albemarle, Amherst and Nelson counties come together for refresher training to share experiences and enjoy a good lunch with fellow firefighters. This formal training session started in 1996 after the Norwood fire, which burned 1,200 acres in approximately eight hours. The foresters and technicians from the three-county area felt a more formal group of wildland firefighters would be good to have in the future to assist with fires like Norwood. As time passed, some of the part-time firefighters have traveled to other areas of the state and acquired experience and red cards, others have worked fires all over the U.S.

On Oct. 25, 2009, 51 of these dedicated individuals gave a Sunday morning and afternoon to review and learn more about fire and safety. We had several part-time firefighters from Fluvanna County attend this year, as well as Justin Barnes, Fluvanna County technician. The day started early at 7 a.m. with the pack test and associated paperwork. Sandra Stephens, program support technician in the Central Region, was at the helm making sure everyone had the necessary paperwork.

Throughout the day, a cadre of other VDOF employees took care of training activities to prepare the group for the upcoming fall and spring fire seasons. The morning session, after the pack test, was held inside and started off with a welcome from L.E. Rhodes, Albemarle County technician. There was an update of current issues and policies from David Powell, assistant regional

forester in the Central Region. Discussions centered around the requirement of the S-212 class for operating a chainsaw and a reminder about doing a walk around check prior to taking the transport out. Paul Stoneburner, Madison County technician, was up next with a review on the STARS radio system. Although STARS is not up and running in the area yet, it was important to make sure everyone knew how to operate the new radios with the legacy channels. Eddie Embrey, retired VDOF, reviewed ground cover fire and related various points to his experience and several historical Virginia fires. The morning session was wrapped up with the Fire Shelter Video and the great lunch of Big Jim's Barbeque arranged by Sandra.



Using a topo map to identify drainages and lay out a potential fireline.



Troubleshooting 12 different problems

The afternoon session was held outside – a warm and sunny day though the ground was still damp from previous rain. It was just what every wildland firefighter hopes for on a weekend during fire season. Everyone rotated through five different stations including fire shelter deployment, progressive hose lay, tool identification, chainsaw troubleshooting and mapping. Derek Keiser, Bill Perry, L.E. Rhodes, Nelson Shaw, Paul Stoneburner, Justin Barnes, Houston Roberts and Martha Warring ran the stations. Everyone seemed to enjoy working in the small groups at the different stations and even the most experienced firefighters learned something new.

The day wrapped up with a review and gratitude for the time spent to improve skills and safety. We all have learned

lessons from past wildfires and prescribed burns, both large and small. The more these lessons and experiences are shared with others, the less often accidents, inconveniences and problems will occur in the future. The time spent on a Sunday in October with firefighters is well worth the time and effort. For 13 years, they keep coming back, in wet times and dry. It is good to have qualified help there when you need it.

PROJECT PLANT IT!

VDOF and Dominion Help Kids Improve the Environment

By Sara Hunt, Project Plant It!

**Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough!
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now.**

This famous verse from a longer poem was written by George Pope Morris in 1830. Now, 180 years later, Morris would be proud that more than 30,000 third-graders in Virginia and other states are protecting trees and improving the environment through their study of Project Plant It!, the program created by Dominion Virginia Power to educate kids and plant trees.

During the months of March and April, kids learn about the important role of trees in the ecosystem with lesson plans and instructional materials that align with third-grade Standards of Learning for science, math, language arts and social studies. Also, each student receives a tree seedling to plant in celebration of Arbor Day.

Once again, the Virginia Department of Forestry will partner with Project Plant It! to share our resources and professional expertise in several ways.

Forester Brian Lacey serves on the team that plans a community planting day for third-graders in Petersburg City public schools. On Arbor Day, which falls on Friday, April 30 this year, students will be transported to historic Lee Memorial Park for a very special spring field trip. With assistance from Brian, they will plant a tree in honor of U.S. military troops and also learn about the history of the park through interpretive speakers stationed along a walking tour.

"This is a wonderful outdoor experience for the children," said Brian. "Each child helps with planting the tree so they feel a strong connection with the park and the environment. Project Plant It! really makes nature come alive and I enjoy seeing the excitement on the kids' faces."

Last year, Lisa Deaton, the VDOF's Project Learning Tree



Coordinator, conducted forester presentations at selected elementary schools participating in Project Plant It! Efforts are underway to explore doing that again in 2010.

Watch for a recap of the VDOF's involvement with Dominion's Project Plant It! activities in the Summer issue of Forestry News. For more information about Project Plant It!, visit www.projectplantit.com.

December 14, 2009

Travis Rivers, VDOF, Rocky Mount, VA

Dear Travis,

I would like to thank you for your help with my forestry class this fall semester, especially with helping on three separate occasions with my field labs dealing with regeneration, thinning and best management practices for harvesting. I feel that it is very important that students see forest management on the ground and interact with forestry professionals, so your time and effort is greatly appreciated.

In addition, I wish to thank you for your continuing assistance with forest management projects on the Ferrum College property, such as the prescribed burns and tree planting, and look forward to continued collaboration in the upcoming year.

I hope you have a good holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Best regards,

Todd Fredericksen, Assoc. Prof. of Forestry and Wildlife
Ferrum College

Fall Forestry Labs with Ferrum College

Travis Rivers, forester, Franklin County, Western Region

This past fall, Neil Brooks and I put together a series of three separate labs for a forestry class taught by Dr. Todd Fredericksen at Ferrum College. The first lab was focused on forest regeneration and took our group to a tract that we had burned and planted back with loblolly pine. The students were taught about the factors going into planning and executing a prescribed burn, and the methods for establishing loblolly pine from planting and reinspections, to release. The class was able to see the difference in seedling growth from tracts that were burned and planted; straight planted without release, and tracts that were straight planted and released. The students then conducted their own reinspection of a planted tract and compared numbers on survival, then determine whether the stand should be released. The last stop of the day was to a site that was clear-cut, with half planted to loblolly while the other half was allowed to regenerate naturally with hardwoods. The benefits to wildlife from clear-cutting were discussed, and why drier ridges were planted to pine while areas with east and north aspects along with creek hollows were left to regenerate back with hardwoods.

The second lab was focused on pine thinnings. The students were taken to a site that was going to be thinned in the next couple of weeks. The reasons for thinning were discussed along with what basal area should be left from a timber management and wildlife standpoint. Students were then separated into groups to determine the total basal area from one plot and to flag trees that should stay and trees that should be harvested. We then drove to a site that had been thinned to see the effects of a thinning. The students were amazed at the amount of herbaceous and hardwood growth that floods in after thinning. Students were able to see the benefits to both the health and vigor of a thinned stand of pine to the benefits provided for wildlife in additional food



sources and escape cover. The last stop of the day was to a stand of six-year-old loblolly pine that had just been pre-commercially thinned several months before. The benefits of pre-commercial thinning were talked about as

opposed to doing nothing to a young loblolly stand with 1,000-2,000 Virginia pines/acre competing for the same nutrients and space. The reasons for performing a prescribed burn before planting areas to loblolly or white pine, that were formally in Virginia pine, were easily shown at the last stop.

The last lab of the trio was going to take the students to some active logging sites as well as sites that needed a final water quality inspection. But due to the seemingly constant rain that we received each and every week through late fall into the winter, and especially on the day of the lab, we had to cancel going into the field. Therefore, Neil Brooks presented information about VDOF's water quality program. The presentation concluded with pictures from the field of good and questionable Best Management Practices, along with pictures of the worst erosion problems that he has seen in the field. The class was interactive in determining whether additional action was needed on each area in the pictures.

Thanks to Dr. Todd Fredericksen for refreshing the forestry classes offered at Ferrum College and for allowing us to be a part of the students' education.

Sadly one of the students from this class, Jessica Goode, was shot and killed by a hunter before the last of the series of labs. The tragedy occurred while she and two others were out collecting samples from a creek near the college for another lab. She will be missed.

New Kent Forestry Center Hunting Season

By Dennis Gaston, forester, Eastern State Forests

New Kent Forestry Center has been busy supplying wild game for Virginia's dinner tables. The day before opening day of shotgun season for deer, a nor'easter dumped six inches of rain on us while the storm surge pushed the tide over Walker's dam and up the Chickahominy River. The river was so high that the deer were pushed up out of the swamp and the disabled veterans from McGuire Veterans Hospital in Richmond dropped 30 deer by 10 a.m.

Two more shotgun days and two black powder days gave disabled persons and their assistants the opportunity to take a record 71 deer for the 2009 season. This included a couple eight-point racks and a six-point rack that was as big. The DGIF game biologists tells us that this will help to thin out the herd, but there are plenty more where they came from.

The herd is indeed plentiful at New Kent. DGIF planted a good deal of the old nursery beds with sunflowers to attract doves, and every field planted was completely chewed down to the stalks by the abundant deer before they could seed.

Many thanks go out to the people who make the deer hunt possible, including the New Kent 4-H Club which sponsors the shotgun events. The individuals who make it possible include: Jeff Stout, tree improvement technician and hunt master during these hunts; Doug Audley, Amelia County forester, and Donald Hixson, retired New Kent Forestry Center technician. They have been helping since the hunts began in 1992. Paul Davis, retired extension agent, and John Yakshe, 4-H, are instrumental in the success of the program. They all put in long, hard days during these hunts, cooking breakfast, driving deer, pulling jaw bones, weighing and field dressing all the deer that are bagged. Their work is greatly appreciated.

Deer are not the only game that the property has to offer. There were two turkey hunts sponsored by the Wheelin' Sportsmen. This is a group of people dedicated to providing people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities. Their efforts led to at least one turkey this year that weighed in at 20 pounds and had an 11-inch beard.

DGIF sponsored four dove hunts in September through its "quota hunts" that people could sign up for online. The hunts

had limited success in number of birds, as dove were hard to come by this year everywhere, but especially at New Kent since the sunflower fields were so damaged by the deer. Each hunt had 60 to 80 people participating. Some other DGIF quota hunts included quail and rabbit hunting. The quail hunts were three days in January and resulted in the discovery of four coveys in the older seed orchards. This was very rewarding as DGIF has been focused on quail habitat management at New Kent for the last several years.

During the summer of 2009, a Boy Scout erected two stationary duck blinds on the property with the cooperation of the Virginia Waterfowlers Association. These were utilized by disabled hunters January 16 during a scheduled Wheelin' Sportsmen hunt. Frozen waters prevented one of the blinds from being used, but a group of four was able to fit into the other blind. They had to break ice to place their decoys and they never got a shot, but they all left happy and were very complimentary about the facility.

2010 promises to be another great hunting year.

Deer Harvested By Year				
Year	Bucks	Does	Button Bucks	Total
1992	4	18	9	31
1993	1	21	10	32
1994	5	6	4	15
1995	8	9	5	22
1996	1	10	2	13
1997	7	19	9	35
1998	4	17	3	24
1999	3	7	3	13
2000	4	20	7	31
2001	10	12	6	28
2002	6	16	7	29
2003	5	24	5	34
2004	3	5	4	12
2005	15	30	11	56
2006	14	18	6	38
2007	8	19	9	36
2008	15	11	5	31
2009	24	37	10	71
Total	137	299	115	551

VDOF Recognized as Outstanding RC&D Sponsor

By David Richert, RC&D forester, Western Region

The Virginia Department of Forestry has been a long-time supporter of Virginia's RC&D Forestry Program – staffing one or more RC&D Forester positions during the past 20 years and partnering on a number of innovative forestry projects. This past fall, VDOF was recognized as the outstanding sponsor of the New River-Highlands RC&D Council. The Department earned this recognition from the New River-Highlands RC&D Council through its involvement with a variety of RC&D forestry projects.

- ✦ Charcoal demonstration projects – VDOF provided staff support and financial support as part of a grant project to add value to low-value wood.
- ✦ Firewise fuel reduction projects – VDOF provided staff support and financial support through the USDA Forest Service Southern Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program.
- ✦ Water quality improvement projects – VDOF provided financial support for a rain garden planting at Rural Retreat Elementary School; a rain garden and riparian buffer at Riverside Community Center in Chilhowie; water quality plantings in Marion; a riparian buffer planting in Bluefield; a shoreline stabilization project along Claytor Lake in Pulaski County, and a riparian buffer project along the New River in Radford.

- ✦ Support for the Southeast RC&D Association meeting – VDOF provided support for several displays and a forestry tour, including an equipment demonstration at the Matthews State Forest.
- ✦ Public information assistance – VDOF has provided valuable editorial review and assistance with a variety of press releases and news articles submitted for publication.
- ✦ Radford green infrastructure project – VDOF provided financial support through the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Most recently, the Department partnered with the New River-Highlands RC&D Council to submit a successful Conservation Innovation Grant proposal for an “extreme forest makeover” program in the New River Valley. This program highlights the Matthews State Forest as a demonstration forest – in which participating forest landowners will use the Matthews State Forest as a field laboratory to gain valuable hands-on experience. Participating landowners will then implement forest stewardship management projects on their own land, with assistance from a variety of natural resource professionals.

The successful outcomes of these and other RC&D forestry projects help the VDOF to continue to protect and develop healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. Receiving recognition as an outstanding sponsor serves to strengthen the partnership between the Virginia Department of Forestry and the RC&D Councils of Virginia.



(L to R) Chuck Shorter, past chair of the New River-Highlands RC&D Council presents State Forester Carl Garrison with an award for Outstanding Sponsor of the RC&D Council.

Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt at the Matthews State Forest

By Zach Olinger, Forest Management and Education Specialist, Matthews State Forest

Matthews State Forest hosted a very successful second annual Wheelin' Sportsmen hunt Nov. 20-21, 2009. VDOF worked with the Grayson County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to hold the event.



Wheelin' Sportsmen is an outreach program of the National Wild Turkey Federation that provides opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the outdoor sports that would otherwise be difficult or impossible for them to participate in.

The partnership between VDOF, DGIF and NWTf allows the event to be successful and run smoothly. The Grayson NWTf Chapter provided all funding for the event, plus an army of enthusiastic volunteers. VDOF provided the property and facilities, along with logistical and technical support. DGIF provided oversight for the event. Chad Austin, VDOF's Grayson County technician, helped to organize the event. "I enjoy the outdoors and hunting myself, but to be able to help others enjoy it and be successful is a real pleasure. I'm honored to be able to be part of this event," Austin said. "These guys enjoy hunting as much as anybody I've ever met, but because of the circumstances they face, it is very challenging for them to do what they love."

Five hunters showed up at the state forest just west of Galax around noon November 20. After lunch and a brief discussion about safety and procedures, the hunters and their guides headed to the field. The guides were all volunteer members of the local NWTf chapter and were there to assist the hunters. Each hunter/guide team was

positioned in a portable blind that had been strategically located prior to the hunt. The blinds were located based on three conditions: the location had to be safe, accessible by wheelchair and had to position the hunter where there was a good chance of seeing deer and being close enough to present a good shot.

The hunters had three opportunities to take to the field: Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. During the course of these three sessions, the five hunters were able to harvest eight deer which included six does and two antlered bucks. Everyone in the field saw multiple deer and every hunter was able to successfully harvest at least one.

Eric Higgins, a native of Grayson County who has participated in the hunt both years it has been held, said, "I really enjoyed the hunt, and being one of the hunters who got a deer this year was great. Saturday morning, we saw a nice buck. I couldn't get a shot at him, and

I shot a doe. But, there is always next year. I am already looking forward to next year."

This is a very positive event for many reasons. Sportsmen who otherwise may not have had a chance to go hunting this year were able to go afield. Everyone involved with the hunt had an enjoyable time and made some lasting memories. The hunters were able to take home some venison for their table. The Matthews State Forest was able to make a slight reduction in an over-abundant deer herd.

It may have been a door prize, fresh venison, memories and stories to tell down the road, new friendships or all of the above, but everyone involved with the Wheelin' Sportsmen event at the Matthews State Forest came away with something. Thanks to all VDOF employees who helped to make this program a success: Chad Austin, Brad Carico, David Edwards, Randy Fleming, Donnie Garman, Brian Ledford and Zach Olinger. Thanks to the Grayson County NWTf Chapter, and to Doug Vaughn, Donnie Garman and David Edwards for providing excellent meals.

Human Resource News

Welcome

Thomas Mason Jeffries is our new FIA specialist for the western part of Virginia. He has a bachelor's in forest resource management and master's in wood science and forest products from Virginia Tech. Most recently, Mason has been working for VDOF as an FIA technician.

Chad Lykins is our new FIA specialist for the southeastern part of Virginia. He has his bachelor's in wildlife and fisheries resources from West Virginia University. Chad has also been working for VDOF as a FIA technician.

Movers & Shakers

David Bruce, building and grounds carpenter in the General Services Division, has been promoted to the building and grounds supervisor in the General Services Division. Thank you, David, for stepping up and accepting this role.

Congratulations!

Brad Carico, water quality engineer for the Western Region, and Jana Maynard, former program support technician for the Western Region, were married February 13. We wish them a long and happy marriage. Congratulations!

New Arrivals

Justin Hancock, forester for Greenville County in the Eastern Region, and wife, Erin, welcomed a new daughter to their family. Abbygale Ruby Hancock was born February 17, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces. Mom, Dad and baby Abby are doing great.

Neil Brooks, technician for Franklin County in the Western Region, and wife, Nina, welcomed a daughter into their family. Caroline Janine Brooks was born February 4 weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Mom, Dad, big brother Peyton and baby Caroline are all doing great.

Mason Jeffries, FIA specialist for western Virginia, and wife, Kara, started the new year by welcoming a new addition to their family. Tom Jefferies was born January 1 weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces. Mom, Dad and baby Tom are all doing great.

Farewell

Dave Schnake, forester for Powhatan County in the Eastern Region, left VDOF to accept a position with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. We wish Dave all the best in his new position.

H.F. Jones, regional technician for the Western Region, retired from VDOF effective Jan. 1, 2010. We wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Get Well Soon!

David Jones, technician for Wythe County in the Western Region, slipped on ice at his home at the beginning of February. This resulted in a severely damaged knee, fractured ankle, torn rotator cuff and various bumps and bruises. At this point, he is expected to be out of the office until April 9. Get well soon!

Jan Hutsell, wife of **Chuck Hutsell**, retired regional forester, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep both Jan and Chuck in your thoughts and prayers.

Condolences

Michael Salyer, technician for Wise County in the Western Region, lost his step-mother, Delores Salyer, who passed away in February. Delores was the wife of Carlyle Salyer, a part-time firefighter in Russell County.

Larry Estes, forestry center supervisor at Augusta Forestry Center, lost his sister, Lavonne Chandler, to colon cancer February 2 at age of 60.

Jeff Hensley, trades utilities technician in the General Services Division, lost his twin brother, Jerry Hensley, February 8 at age 45 following an illness.

Wanda Colvin, accounting manager in the Fiscal Division, on the sudden death of her father, Richard Henshaw, January 2 at age 66.

Maynard Stoddard IV, retired assistant chief of fire management, passed away February 21 at age 83. Maynard was a 1951 graduate of Virginia Tech and a veteran of the United States Army Air Force and the United States Air Force, and he served during World War II in the United States and Germany. Mr. Stoddard had worked for the USDA Forest Service and the National Park Service, and in 1987, he was awarded the National Silver Smokey Bear Award given by the USDA Forest Service, the Advertising Council and the National Association of State Foresters for outstanding public service in wildfire prevention. Mr. Stoddard retired in 1989 from the Virginia Department of Forestry as assistant chief of fire management, having served for 36 years.

Photo Gallery



Brad Carico, water quality engineer for the Western Region, and Jana Maynard, former program support technician for the Western Region, were married February 13. We wish them a long and happy marriage. Congratulations!



Bob Boeren, forester for Botetourt, Craig and Roanoke counties, and Jon Willoughby, technician for Botetourt and Roanoke counties, tap a sugar maple tree at Fishburn Park Elementary School in the City of Roanoke. Bob spoke to almost 100 students about making maple syrup and how he used to make it in Pennsylvania during his spring breaks in college.



Brad and Jana Carico didn't expect snow at the beach in February!



Happy
Birthday

Wayne L. Perfater ~ 4/1 (WR)
James C. Bowling ~ 4/3 (CR)
Lawrence M. Dunn ~ 4/3 (Ret)
Orville L. Long ~ 4/4 (Ret)
Gale B. Washburn ~ 4/4 (CR)
Kristina D. Woodie ~ 4/4 (HQ)
Paul M. Reier ~ 4/5 (ER)
Carl B. Belew ~ 4/9 (HQ)
William R. Ruby ~ 4/9 (Ret)
Zachary H. Dowling ~ 4/13 (ER)
Joseph L. Lehnen ~ 4/15 (CR)
Chad S. Lykins ~ 4/16 (HQ)
David A. Milby ~ 4/16 (ER)
Zachary H. Olinger ~ 4/19 (SF)
David W. Richert ~ 4/20 (WR)
Brian E. Irvine ~ 4/21 (ER)
John H. Pemberton ~ 4/21 (HQ)
Frank J. Brubaker ~ 4/22 (Ret)
Steven Counts ~ 4/25 (WR)
Richard A. Gravley ~ 4/25 (CR)
Kenneth W. Mohler ~ 4/27 (WR)
Donald W. Garman ~ 4/29 (WR)

Justin M. Barnes ~ 5/1 (CR)
Charles W. Becker ~ 5/1 (HQ)
Gregory H. Winston ~ 5/2 (Ret)
Percy W. Ayers ~ 5/3 (HQ)
Donna S. Hoy ~ 5/3 (HQ)
Robert C. Suydam ~ 5/3 (ER)
Jerre L. Creighton ~ 5/4 (HQ)
Stephen M. Moyer ~ 5/5 (CR)
Stanley F. Warner ~ 5/8 (Ret)
Bernard A. Brooks ~ 5/10 (CR)
Paul F. Revell ~ 5/10 (HQ)
Travis H. Rivers ~ 5/10 (WR)
Christopher Asaro ~ 5/12 (HQ)
Kelli B. Craddock ~ 5/12 (HQ)
James H. Guess ~ 5/14 (Ret)
Lynwood P. Rogers ~ 5/16 (HQ)
Arthur G. Cox ~ 5/19 (Ret)
C. Russell Proctor ~ 5/19 (WR)
Dean P. Cumbia ~ 5/20 (HQ)
Derek O. Keiser ~ 5/20 (CR)
C. William Bruffey ~ 5/22 (HQ)
Dennis Anderson ~ 5/24 (WR)
Larry W. Layman ~ 5/24 (Ret)
Jessica A. Carroll ~ 5/28 (HQ)
Amy M. Ricotta ~ 5/29 (HQ)
William L. Braford ~ 5/30 (Ret)
Richard H. Miles ~ 5/31 (Ret)
Rebecca L. Woodson ~ 6/1 (HQ)

Deborah B. Luna ~ 6/2 (HQ)
Donald M. Davis ~ 6/5 (ER)
Mary Gay Altizer ~ 6/7 (WR)
Richard L. Starnes ~ 6/7 (Ret)
Justin B. Hancock ~ 6/9 (ER)
Donald L. Parrott ~ 6/10 (Ret)
Joseph C. Street ~ 6/11 (HQ)
Margaret Carpenter ~ 6/12 (HQ)
David L. Stone ~ 6/12 (CR)
Adam C. Smith ~ 6/14 (CR)
Frank N. Wood ~ 6/14 (Ret)
B. David Edwards ~ 6/15 (WR)
Bryan P. Alexander ~ 6/16 (ER)
Gerald R. Crowell ~ 6/16 (CR)
Vanessa B. Blick ~ 6/20 (FC)
Dennis R. Vaughan ~ 6/24 (CR)
James C. Clark ~ 6/25 (Ret)
David B. Powell ~ 6/25 (CR)
Brenda H. Taylor ~ 6/26 (HQ)
Preston E. Trower ~ 6/26 (Ret)
Larry R. Willis ~ 6/26 (Ret)
Larry R. Winston ~ 6/26 (Ret)
Samuel R. Barkley ~ 6/27 (Ret)
James N. Ebbert ~ 6/28 (Ret)
Todd A. Edgerton ~ 6/28 (HQ)
James R. Gering ~ 6/28 (Ret)
Edward P. Furlow ~ 6/30 (CR)
David W. Slack ~ 6/30 (ER)
Robert M. Thurman ~ 6/30 (WR)
Susan P. Tennant ~ 7/3 (CR)

Donald J. Giegerich ~ 7/6 (CR)
Robert W. Farrell ~ 7/7 (HQ)
Kevin W. Keith ~ 7/8 (WR)
Joshua D. McLaughlin ~ 7/9 (FC)
William B. Hall ~ 7/11 (CR)
Stephen L. Morris ~ 7/13 (CR)
A. Kenneth Thomas ~ 7/13 (WR)
Kenneth E. Sterner ~ 7/14 (ER)
Dennis C. Gaston ~ 7/15 (SF)
Paul B. Geyer ~ 7/15 (Ret)
James W. Jarvis ~ 7/15 (CR)
Adam D. Cumpston ~ 7/16 (WR)
William Shumaker ~ 7/17 (SF)
Walter M. Gordon ~ 7/18 (WR)
Michael T. Salyer ~ 7/19 (WR)
David E. Jones ~ 7/20 (WR)
Chris Sullivan ~ 7/20 (WR)
Junius Miles ~ 7/21 (SF)
Anne M. Skalski ~ 7/22 (HQ)
James M. McGlone ~ 7/23 (CR)
Vance A. Blick ~ 7/24 (FC)
D. Drew Arnn ~ 7/25 (CR)
Philip N. Carpenter ~ 7/25 (HQ)
Tammy C. Ingle ~ 7/26 (SF)
Nelson D. Jarvis ~ 7/27 (ER)
Sandra G. Mills ~ 7/28 (HQ)
Chris Thomsen ~ 7/30 (WR)

Special Edition of Forestry News in Memory of Alex Williamson
Submit your memories, stories and photos. Submission Deadline: April 5

Submit articles to:

Janet Muncy, editor
janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov



The deadlines are as follows:
Summer Issue – May 1, 2010
Fall Issue – August 1, 2010
Winter Issue – November 1, 2010
Spring Issue – February 1, 2010

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