



December 5, 2023

Upcoming Events

December 13 – Sharpen the Saw Webinar: How the Agency Uses Social Media

More details and a Teams invite will be emailed out soon.

DHRM Opportunities

Virginia State Employee Loan Program (VSELP)

VSELP offers loans of up to \$500 to state employees through **Dec. 29**, but will be dissolved thereafter.

To learn more, visit the DHRM website: <https://www.dhrm.virginia.gov/vslp/vslp-home>

2023 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC)

There's still time to donate to your favorite CVC charity! Donate via credit card or payroll deduction before the campaign ends **Dec. 31**. CVC donations are 100% tax deductible. Learn more and donate on the CVC website:

<https://cvc.virginia.gov/donate.html>



Welcome to DOF!

Audrey Lux joined DOF on Nov. 27 as the Hardwood Forester assisting landowners with conservation easements in western Virginia. Audrey holds a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation from Virginia Tech, with a major in Environmental Resources Management. Originally from Georgia, Audrey enjoyed her time at Virginia Tech so much she wanted to work in western Virginia.

Welcome to DOF, Audrey!



Policy Updates

All Water Quality Policy and Procedures received minor updates. 18-003 received the biggest change, adding clarification on the failure to notify process. Please review when you have a chance.

[18-001 – Harvest Notification](#)

[18-002 – Harvest Inspections](#)

[18-003 – Water Quality Law Enforcement](#)

[18-004 – Logger BMP Cost-Share Program](#)

[18-006 – Water Quality Complaint Investigation](#)

Agency Updates

2024 Virginia Department of Forestry Calendars

The 2024 calendars feature invasive species (plants and insects) in Virginia. The annual DOF calendars are one of our most visible outreach tools and serve as a great educational gift for landowners, loggers, local officials, cooperators and the public. They also provide a convenient “reason” to touch base with a partner or customer.

There will always be faithful folks that will come looking for them, but the calendars are intended as agency educational outreach tools for DOF staff to hand out and deliver. There is space on the back cover for staff to add a label or business card with contact information. This year, 10,000 calendars were printed, with the majority being distributed to the field. If you need more, contact your PST.



Albemarle High Schoolers Learn about Forest Health

Forest Health Program Manager **Lori Chamberlin** and Forest Health Specialist **Katlin Mooneyham** gave a guest lecture to the forestry class at the Miller School of Albemarle on Nov. 14. The high school students are learning about all aspects of forestry, and the forest health presentation focused on various forest health monitoring activities and common invasive pests in Virginia.

Hardwood Assessment Tool Used at Pocahontas State Park

On Nov. 20, State Forest Forester **Dennis Gaston**, Hardwood Initiative Coordinator **Joe Rossetti** joined Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation specialists to perform a stand assessment on a 128-acre stand at Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County. The group used the Hardwood Assessment Tool (HAT) on a loblolly pine stand. While not the original purpose for the HAT, DOF will use it to help DCR transition the stand to an oak-hickory forest. This will be the first HAT demonstration area on a state park and its first use converting from pine to hardwood, a topic DOF foresters get asked about by landowners on a regular basis.

New NRCS Forest Farming Practice Available to Landowners

The Virginia Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) is adding a new practice to their suite of practices available to landowners in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The new practice is **Code #379 - Forest Farming**, and the practice standard can be found in the NRCS [electronic Field Office Technical Guide \(eFOTG\)](#), under Section 4 – Practice Standards and Supporting Documents. Forest Farming is defined as managing or establishing stands of trees or shrubs in coordination with the management and/or cultivation of understory plants and nontimber forest products. Interested landowners should contact NRCS

Specialist **J.B. Daniel** at j.b.daniel@usda.gov or (434) 392-4172 Ext. 115. DOF foresters cannot to provide any technical assistance or recommendations for this practice except the type of trees to plant. If DOF foresters are requested to provide any other technical assistance for this practice, please send the request to Forest Management Program Manager **Todd Groh**.

New DOF Video Demonstrates Invasive Plant Chemical Treatment Methods

Invasive Species Specialist **Lindsay Caplan** joins staff from Virginia State Parks to demonstrate four methods of treating invasive plants with chemicals. The video was filmed in September at Powhatan State Park in Powhatan County.

Watch on DOF's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/RN4YBErXpU>

