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Employee Recognition

Welcome! – Deya Ramsden – James River Buffer Program Coordinator

- ◆ Deya Ramsden is the new James River Buffer Program Coordinator. A graduate of Oregon State University (OSU) with a B.S. in Natural Resources, Deya spent the last ten years with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Early in her career she performed urban natural areas restoration with the Natural Resources Group. Recently she served as a Borough Forester in the boroughs of Staten Island and Queens, working to balance public safety and urban development with the preservation of the City’s mature street trees. Her interest in forest restoration led her to complete her Master’s in Natural Resources. A native of southern Albemarle county, she feels a special connection to the James River and is eager to contribute to its preservation while serving as the Middle James River Forest Watershed Project Coordinator.

News You Can Use

Uniform Changes

- ◆ Take a look at the uniform website <https://virginia.howarduniform.com/register.asp> new items have been added!
 - Added - Women’s Prana Halle Pants
 - Added – Black Fleece Vest – Men’s and Women’s

- Added – Softshell Black Jacket – Men’s and Women’s
 - Added Black Rain Jacket – Men’s and Women’s
 - Replaced Polo shirt with Hoarce Dark Navy – Unisex – Short and Long Sleeve
 - Replaced Oxford Shirts with Light Blue Red House Brand
 - Eliminated White Polo Shirts and Oxford Shirts
 - Replaced 1 ¾ wide belt with a 1 ½ wide belt.
 - Replaced two tone hats with solid beige color.
- ◆ We are going to continue with Howard Uniform Company. Howard has made some adjustments to their process and delivery is expected to be more reasonable. If you have any issues with your orders please let Mary Weaver or your uniform committee representative know so the problem can be resolved.
- Eastern Region – Lisa Deaton
 - Western Region – Cole Young
 - Central Region – Chad Stover
 - Headquarters – Kaitlin Mooneyham or Kristi Clore

Procedures for Ordering Uniforms

- ◆ Go to the Howard Uniform website <https://virginia.howarduniform.com/register.asp>
- ◆ Returning Customers use quick login – New Employees register by creating a new account.
 - New Employees use billing address: 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800, Charlottesville, VA 22903
 - Approval process to login may take a couple of days.
- ◆ Once you log in, click on “Employee Apparel” under Forestry.
- ◆ In “Employee Apparel” browse and select uniform items. Place them in your shopping cart.
- ◆ When you “Check Out”;
 - “Billing Information” should already be filled out.
 - “Shipping Address” must be your assigned office.
 - “Payment Information” options
 - a. Select “Purchase Order Number”
 - b. Enter your first and last name in box.
 - c. **NEVER SELECT** “Pay With a Credit Card”
 - “Place Order”
 - a. An order confirmation email will be sent to you immediately afterwards.
- ◆ Your order may take up to a month to receive items unless placed on backorder.
- ◆ Once you receive your items please send your package invoice to Kristi Clore at the VDOF HQ office.
 - 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800
Charlottesville, VA 22903

If you have any questions on ordering uniforms please contact [Kristi Clore](#) at 434-220-329

Last Week

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager) visited Jamie King, Virginia Tech's new campus arborist, to discuss projects and opportunities for collaboration. She also assisted the USFS with the installation of a new gravel bed research project.
- ◆ U&CF and Forest Health Program staff hosted representatives from VDACS and USDA-APHIS at VDOF Headquarters to develop a scope of work for the Urban Forestry Strike Team deployment in February for spotted lanternfly.
- ◆ Rob Farrell (state forester), Charlie Becker and Bryant Bays (eastern regional forester) presented at the Eastern Region State Forester's Industry Roundtable at the New Kent Conference Center. The Roundtable was a facilitated session with representatives from various forestry and industry sectors. The facilitators collected information about issues affecting the audience. Observers from state agencies, VA Tech and the Board of Forestry, as well as Ed Zimmer (deputy state forester), Terry Lasher (assistant state forester), John Hisghman (eastern deputy regional forester), Robbie Talbert (central regional forester), Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer) and Chris Cox (utilization & marketing project developer) also attended.
- ◆ A 110-acre Amos easement in Lunenburg County went to record on December 30, 2019. The property is 96 percent forested, just over half of which is rated as high Forest Conservation Value. The easement protects over 4,500 feet of streams that ultimately flow into the Nottoway River.
- ◆ VDOF has a fully executed a contract with North Carolina State University and partners to develop an Economic Impact Study for the Urban and Community Forestry industries. The U&CF Team is facilitating the work that will be conducted for the 13 southern states in USFS region 8.
- ◆ Lara Johnson, Molly O'Liddy (U&CF partnership coordinator and Becky Woodson (forest management programs coordinator) hosted the Trees Virginia Board conference call to discuss the Virginia Tree Steward Program and new Board members.
- ◆ Charlie Becker (utilization and marketing manager) presented information on the Forest Products Tax to the Board of Forestry RT Sub-Committee meeting held December 17, at VDOF HQ office.
- ◆ Charlie Becker attended the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) meeting webinar. The meeting reviewed AHEC promotional activities and the latest on trade issues affecting international markets.
- ◆ Lara Johnson passed her FAA part 107 drone pilot exam.
- ◆ Charlie Becker and Joe Lehn (utilization and marketing specialist) participated in a conference call with representatives from the North Carolina Forest Service and professors from VA Tech and James Madison on the wood fuel use survey project

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ The Reforestation of Timberlands (RT) program was created in 1970 to address overcutting of Virginia's pine resource. Since that time, approximately 1.9 million acres have been planted or improved through the program. The RT program is one of the reasons that planted pine stands make up nearly two thirds of Virginia's pine resource. One of the functions of the Board of Forestry is to advise the State Forester regarding the RT program. A RT sub-committee of the Board met on December 17 in Charlottesville. Sub-committee members Glen Worrell (consulting forester) and Greg Scheerer (Westrock) reviewed the past and current year accomplishments, discussed trends in the Forest Products Tax (which funds half of the program), analyzed available pine survival (re-inspection)

data and generally evaluated the program. Ed Zimmer, Charlie Becker, Todd Groh (forest resource management program coordinator) and Dean Cumbia (director forest resource management) provided information.

- ◆ The Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA) is a cooperative effort by the U. S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies that provides critical data on our nation's forests. In Virginia, six VDOF field crew continually and carefully collect information on over 4,000 permanent plots. This information is transmitted to a branch of the Forest Service's Southern Research Station (SRS) in Knoxville, TN for processing and analysis. Every two years, the SRS holds a conference where stakeholders present and learn the latest regarding FIA. The 2019 meeting, held in late November in Knoxville hosted over 300 scientists, managers and policy makers from the South and from around the world. More on this meeting and current science and publications can be found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/program_information/TheInventory_Issue56_Dec19.pdf
- ◆ VDOF Forest Inventory and Assessment (FIA) crews have completed 100% of current panel of plots (819 plots). Additionally, almost 17% of the next panel of plots have been completed. FIA crews work nearly invisible to many of us, but do consistent, detailed, and high quality work. Each plot consists of four sub-plots where complete forest, individual tree and invasive plant data is collected. Additionally, forest health attributes like tree crown condition, understory plants, woody debris, and soils are collected on some plots. A sample of plots are audited for accuracy by the U. S. Forest Service. Each plot represents approximately 6,000 acres, so accuracy on every tree is critical! More details on plot design and data collection can be found on the FIA Fact sheet: <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/fact-sheets/data-collections/Sampling%20and%20Plot%20Design.pdf>. The FIA data is highly trusted and is used extensively by VDOF, forest industry, and policy makers. The FIA Teams are: Lynwood Rogers and Scott Adams/ Northeastern Region, Chad Lykins and Daniel Herbert/Southeastern Region, Thomas Callahan and Cynthia Scheuermann in the Southcentral Region, Ryan Hewit and Ruby Stathers in the North central Region, Mason Jeffries and Jeff Armistead in the Western Region and Joey Collard and Bethany Gregory in the far Southwest region and program manager John Pemberton. Great job FIA Team!

Fire Emergency and Response

- ◆ The Virginia Prescribed Fire Council has created a new booklet titled, Beyond the Bonfire: A Primer on Prescribed Fire for Virginia's Landowners. The document is currently only available in digital format on the Virginia Prescribed Fire Council website (<https://www.vafirecouncil.com>), but it is set to be printed in booklet form during 2020. The books content was put together through a collaborative effort of a subcommittee of the council, including Fred Turck of the VDOF.
- ◆ Wildfire Summary CY 2019 - The VDOF suppressed 384 wildfires which burned 2,463 acres. These numbers represent the lowest number of wildfires and the second lowest number of acres burned in the history of the agency. In 2019, the agency's response efforts were successful in protecting 594 homes and other structures with an estimated value of over 40 million dollars.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Virginia Adventures held the Willis River 50K trail race with approximately 350 participants running on trails through Bear Creek Lake State Park and Cumberland State Forest.
- ◆ As of January 6th, Augusta Forestry Center has received 372 orders for this year's seedling sales.
- ◆ Garland Gray Forestry Center begins lifting bareroot loblolly pine seedlings January 6th.

- ◆ Dean Cumbia (forest management director), Josh Bennicoff (forestry centers' manager), Jerre Creighton (research program manager) and Harvey Darden (agency lands director) met with personnel from Weyerhaeuser for a field tour of some of their loblolly pine plantations in Appomattox County to discuss their treatments and use of VDOF seedlings, both bareroot and containerized. One of their field studies involves tip moth treatments. Twenty-five years ago, tip moth was not a significant problem in many of the piedmont counties, but over the last several years, the impact of tip moth damage has increased and effected loblolly pine growth. One of the stands in the study had VDOF containerized seedlings that received a field injection for tip moth control. Many of the seedlings had achieved 3 ft. or more in height after one growing season and one was measured at 5 ft. tall (see photo). Untreated seedlings ranged from 1 ft. to 2 ft. tall.



Eastern Region

- ◆ Scott Bachman (senior area forester) was a member of a panel of speakers at the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts meeting held in Norfolk. Scott was afforded the opportunity after Heather Dowling (senior area forester) was contacted by Barbara McGarry of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Heather recommended Scott since the meeting was in his work area. The topic the panel was to address was field safety for workers preparing Resource Management plans. The panel consisted of Scott, Biologist from Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Pete Acker, District Operations Manager Northern Neck SWCD Kathy Clarke and Assistant Attorney General Grant Kronenberg from the. The 70 resource professionals in attendance were attentive and engaged with all the speakers. Later in the week, Scott was told by several staffers that were in the audience that this panel was the one of the most engaging of the meeting.

Western Region

- ◆ Kenny Doss (equipment technician specialist) represented VDOF at a surprise 90th birthday gathering for Abingdon Motor Parts owner, Al Blevins. Throughout the years, at least three VDOF mechanics have frequented Mr. Blevins' auto parts store, operating at the same location since 1951. The support goes both ways, though, as Al would open his doors after normal business hours when a part would be needed to repair a forestry truck or dozer and get it back in the field. He reminisced about some of the busier fire seasons and the days of fire tower operation. He cited VDOF as a faithful customer during his career.



News Clips:

- ◆ [Man works to restore historic African American cemetery](#) (This story was picked up in several publications nationwide)
- ◆ [Wet weather contributes to decline in Virginia's oak tree population](#)