

From: Edward Zimmer <ed.zimmer@dof.virginia.gov> on behalf of Edward Zimmer
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 8:09 AM
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES; Bettina Ring; Bradley Copenhaver; Hatcher, Brandon; Heidi Hertz
Subject: The Branch
Attachments: 2020-02-03final.docx

Rob is preparing to head to a meeting of the Southern Group of State Foresters Urban and Community Forestry Committee, where he is the State Forester liaison, so I am sending out the Branch this week.

Let's start by hoping our upcoming fire season is not quite as exciting and surprising as the last 10 minutes of last night's big game. Hope all the Chiefs fans out there were able to get some rest after celebrating into the night.

By now, all eligible employees should have heard about the procedures for having your field pants treated with permethrin by Insect Shield. If you haven't, take a closer look at your inbox or check with your supervisor. I want to encourage all eligible staff to take advantage of this opportunity to help protect yourself from the growing number of tick species and tick-borne diseases we see in Virginia.

Last week, I was fortunate to be able to take the time to attend a couple of great conferences. Early in the week, along with about 30 other VDOF folks, I was in Richmond for the Virginia Association of Forest Health Professionals annual conference. This is always my favorite conference of the year because the info is timely and well-presented and the planning team, which includes our own Lori Chamberlain and Katlyn Mooneyham, amongst others, does such a great job with every aspect of the meeting. Along with pesticide credits and the usual discussion of safety, there were great presentations on a variety of current and up-and-coming invasives, including Emerald Ash Borer, Spotted lanternfly, Callery Pear, and others. And, unfortunately, a presentation on ticks and the havoc they can cause. Thanks to Lori, Katlyn, and the rest of the team for another great conference.

The Appalachian Society of American Foresters met in Norfolk for their 99th annual meeting. About ten VDOF folks attended and heard great discussion on how to gain a competitive edge in our ever more competitive working environment. It was great to see a familiar face, former Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Todd Haymore, lead a panel discussion chaired by the Presidents of the Forest Resources Association, the American Forest Foundation, and the National Alliance of Forest Owners.

TAs always, thanks for all you do for the citizens of the Commonwealth. Be safe this week.

Ed Zimmer