



**March 30, 2020**

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**Photos and Videos of VDOF at Work**

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- ◆ Public Information Office is asking for you to share your photos and videos in the coming weeks. As you’re doing your work, whether at home or in the field, please think of the ways you can share with the community how VDOF is still at work. This may include:
  - a selfie in the field
  - scenic photo from fieldwork
  - your view from home while teleworking
  - photos of trees, flowers, etc. you encounter during mid-workday breaks to walk around your backyard/neighborhood/office building
- ◆ Sharing little moments from our work can demonstrate to our forestry community that we’re still working hard for them during this critical time, even if that work is mostly unseen right now.
- ◆ Feel free to text or email photos/videos to [Raina DeFonza](#). Don’t forget to share a brief description of what you’re sharing. And if you’re not sure it’s worth sharing, send it anyway!

## Coming Up

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### *Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Cost Share*

- ◆ Enrollment begins April 1.
  - [Form 6.5 Emerald Ash Borer Program Cost-Share Application](#)
  - [EAB Cost-share Topic sheet with flow chart](#)
  - [Application Process & Info doc \(cheat sheet\)](#)

### *Logging Expo: New Dates*

- ◆ Save the Date! This year's Logging EXPO for May was rescheduled for October 9-10, 2020, at the Richmond Raceway, as a result of COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings.

## Project Updates

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### *Urban Wood Project Update*

- ◆ The urban wood industry is emerging as a viable component of Virginia's forest products industry, and it may be worth your time to learn more about this field. During these times of cancelled conferences, rescheduled appointments and working from home, we all may have a little more time to catch up on our "to do" lists, as well as explore new ideas or pursue learning opportunities. Here we've provided some resources for you to learn more about urban wood by engaging with some of the more active and innovative urban wood service providers from across Virginia:
  - **Genuine Timbercraft, Dylan Greenquist, Montpelier, VA**  
Website - <http://www.guinetimbercraft.com/>  
IG – genuinetimbercraft
  - **Brandon's Custom Creations. Suffolk, VA**  
Website - <https://brandonscustomcreations.com/>  
IG - brandons\_custom\_creations
  - **St. Pierre Woodworking & Sawmill, Bill St. Pierre, Floyd, VA**  
Website - <https://www.stpierrewoodworking.com/index.html>  
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/StPierreWoodworking>
  - **Family Tree Woodcrafters, Brittany Clem & Mike Hott, Harrisonburg, VA**  
Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/FamilyTreeWoodcrafters/>  
IG - family\_tree\_woodcrafters
  - **Rocktown Urban Wood, Brad Wroblewski & others, Harrisonburg, VA**  
Website - <https://www.rocktownurbanwood.com/>  
IG – rocktownurbanwood

## Items of Note

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- ◆ [Virginia Forest Products Association Newsletter](#)
- ◆ [Virginia Forestry Association COVID-19 Resources](#)

## Last Week

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### State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell, Terry Lasher (assistant state forester) and Greg Evans (special assistant to the secretary of agricultural and forestry) participated in a conference call to discuss the status of the Healthy Watersheds Forests Program. Meeting attendees included Eldon James from the Rappahannock River Basin Commission, Chandler Van Voorhis of ACRE Investment Management L.L.C and Dan Spethman of Working Lands Investment Partners L.L.C.
  - The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a bifurcated approach of utilizing public and private entities to capitalize on the carbon sequestration market for public benefit. This burgeoning market in Virginia can serve as a proxy for clean water, provide for improved forest health, add market diversification for forestland owners and encourage working lands retention.
  - Topics of discussion centered around: the 2019 HB 2485, which expanded the role of Economic Development Authority to aggregate landowners to specifically include carbon; updates to the pilot projects in Fauquier, Orange and Essex counties; workforce development potential; legal structure of the program, and market access and barriers.

### Forestland Conservation

- ◆ For calendar year 2020, **the Arbor Day Foundation is waiving the requirement for all recognition programs to hold an Arbor Day Observance.** This includes the Tree City, Tree Campus and Tree Line USA programs. In light of this decision and the Governor's guidance on prohibiting events of 10 or more people, VDOF will not participate in spring Arbor Day events. Urban & Community Forest program staff will contact past awardees directly, but field staff should coordinate delivery of the 2019 award materials this year when convenient.
- ◆ Charlie Becker (utilization and marketing manager) participated in a conference call to provide input on the new USFS Southern Research Station Southern Forest Outlook project to update information and future projections of the southern forests. This project is the next in the series that has produced the past Southern Forest Resource Assessment and Southern Forest Futures publications. The Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) Services, Utilization and Marketing (SUM) Committee is part of the group providing guidance on format and content of project. Additional calls will be planned as materials to review are developed. Project should be completed sometime in the next year.

### Forest Resource Management

- ◆ The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Cost-Share is back for 2020! This reimbursement program offers financial aid to individual landowners, municipalities, homeowners associations, universities, non-profits, etc. Reimbursements are 50 percent of direct treatment costs (injection treatments of emamectin benzoate only) up to \$1,250 per landowner and \$5,000 per organization. Open enrollment will be April 1 - June 22 but we will certainly be flexible with timing and method of submission, considering the current pandemic. Please refer questions to Meredith Bean (emerald ash borer coordinator) [meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:meredith.bean@dof.virginia.gov), (434) 220-9034.
- ◆ The Riparian Forest Buffer Guidance Document was rolled out last week to VDOF regional staff and senior area foresters. The document emphasizes the strategic role of riparian forest buffer establishment in improving water quality and outlines the numerous programs that are available to implement buffers. It also defines buffers, the criteria for establishment and how to record them in IFRIS. This information is being incorporated into our policy and procedures as well.

- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health manager) and Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) visited First Mountain State Forest with Matt Wolanski (senior area forester) to assess the health of the hemlock trees in the forest. The hemlocks are infested with the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect that eventually causes hemlock mortality. Although the hemlocks at First Mountain are heavily infested with the hemlock woolly adelgid, many trees still appear healthy. The VDOF forest health program plans to treat these trees with insecticide this spring and/or fall to give them long-term protection.

### Agency Lands

- ◆ Augusta Forestry Center has completed its lifting for this season. Orders year-to-date total 956, and 3.8 million seedlings have been graded; shipping continues. New orders are still being received for delivery by shipping only. No new direct pickups from the nursery are being allowed at this time.
- ◆ Garland Gray Forestry Center has completed its lifting and packaging of this season's loblolly pine with a total of 26.1 million seedlings packaged. Seedlings continue to be picked up and distributed for planting.
- ◆ Southern Seed Co. in Georgia has completed the seed processing from our 2019 loblolly pine cone harvest, with a total of 5,440 pounds of seed extracted from 4,802 bushels. The 1.13 pounds per bushels was an excellent yield and will ultimately produce approximately 76 million seedlings.
- ◆ Rogueing (thinning) of the third cycle orchard at New Kent Forestry Center continues. As the orchard matures, trees are removed that rank lowest in productivity scoring, which in turn increases the overall productivity of the remaining families due to open pollination of all the trees throughout the orchard.
- ◆ Shannon Lewis (Cumberland State Forest manager) and Katlin Dewitt investigated an active southern pine beetle spot on Cumberland State Forest. Three traps were installed for monitoring.
- ◆ Mike Womack (Appomattox-Buckingham & Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest manager) worked one day at Emergency Operations Command (EOC) in Richmond

### Human Resources

- ◆ During the evening of March 9, Hector Rivera (director of human resources) represented VDOF during the Governor's Community Forum on Diversity and Inclusive Excellence, held in Charlottesville High School. The forum, hosted by the country's first cabinet-level diversity officer (Dr. Underwood), shared a sustainable framework to promote inclusive practices across Virginia state government and addressed systemic inequities in current practices that must change or lead to policy changes. **ONE VIRGINIA (Many Virginians: One Commonwealth)** is the motto that centers on a "Collective Impact Theory". The goal moving forward is to create an inclusive environment that brings people together through leveraged infrastructure and communication that builds trust, relationships and a culture of belonging. Meaningful/shared metrics and measures that demonstrate organizations' progress towards deepening our contributions to the communities we serve are integral to the strategic plan's success.

### Eastern Region

- ◆ Eli Podyma (community forest specialist) and Clint Phegley (area forester) assisted Daniel Klein (RVA Green City Commission) in measuring a dawn redwood in Byrd Park, checking to see if it was big enough for a place in Virginia's Big Tree Program. The measurements of the dawn redwood place the tree at number five for the state.

- ◆ Brysen Bowers, a Lee Davis High School Sophomore, has spent the last two months on a forestry project in the Capital work area. Having been accepted into the VA Soil and Water Conservation District's Youth Conservation Leadership Institute, he conducted a timber cruise on a 12-acre wooded parcel of public land in his neighborhood. Mentored by Dave Terwilliger (area forester), the project also included visits to Sandy Point State Forest and the annual Virginia Forest Health Professionals meeting. To conclude the project, Brysen will report his cruise data in a PowerPoint presentation during an awards luncheon at James Monroe Highlands. (pictured)



- ◆ Members of the Capital work area responded to a large wildfire in King and Queen County on Saturday, March 6. Two VDOF dozers and local fire crews contained the 25-acre blaze that spread quickly through young pine and broomsedge into mature timber (pictured).



## Public Information

- ◆ Public Information Director Michelle Stoll was requested by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to assist with COVID-19 communications in their Joint Information Center (JIC) due to her past work experience with VDH. She begins supporting the VDH staff this week.
- ◆ Page Hutchinson (PLT coordinator), along with other environmental educators with state agencies, was asked by Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Ann Jennings to pull together environmental education activities that could be done with simple materials found at home. These ideas were also posted on VDOF's website (in the Education section). Page created a document with ten amended PLT and general forest education activities that also get parents and children outside exploring, observing and appreciating the natural world.
- ◆ Page Hutchinson and Suzie Gilley (conservation educator with DGIF) have teamed together for the past three years on a partner grant with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Last weekend was to be the first in a series of three weekend trainings for high school Environmental Science teachers. Since the in-person training had to be cancelled, Page and Suzie are creating a training consisting of webinars, online videos, guided activities and Zoom calls. It's a new frontier for both Page and Suzie!
- ◆ Posts to VDOF's Field Notes blog included:
  - [AlterNATIVES](#)
  - [Finding Green in the Winter Woods](#)

## News Clips

- ◆ [How the Army's helicopter 'Freight Train' trains to get soldiers and their gear where they need to be](#)