



April 27, 2020

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Employee Spotlight

Jack Kauffman, Paul Stoneburner, Dilan Kidwell, Mike Downey and David Powell – Many Thanks!

- ◆ Jill and Mark Meyer from longtime VDOF partners Kingfisher Farm, located in Greene County sent the below Thank-you.
 - “Many thanks to Jack, Paul, Dilan, Mike and David for a fun day of burning last month. We were also joined by Christina from CSWCD who was here for observation. Dilan was a new member for us to meet and we thank Paul for coming out of retirement for a day! They timed the day perfectly after several dry periods. We got complete burns in fields that have never before all burned due to soil moisture. These burns help us immensely to stay on top of wood growth and to vary habitat on the property.”



Action Required

REMINDER: Annual Inventory Reconciliation!

It's that time of year again, the annual inventory reconciliation!

- ❑ Please follow directions below and have your signed and dated inventory to Kristi Clore no later than **May 8, 2020**.
 - Asset owners may generate inventory reports in IFRIS by selecting “Program Areas | Asset Management | My Property Inventory Report | Print Preview.”
 - After the report is generated, select “Print.”
 - Asset owners will then verify the accuracy of the report by physically inspecting all inventory items that are assigned to them and signing the report.
 - Any discrepancies should be noted in the report. If necessary, fill out a Form 3.22 Property Inventory Addition, to add an item that is missing from your inventory, or Form 26 Damaged, Lost or Stolen Property Certificate, to remove a damaged, lost or stolen inventory item.

Even if you do not have any inventory items you must still sign and return your inventory report.

REMINDER: SPCC Cardholder & Supervisor Training

- ❑ SPCC training is available in the Learning Center: <https://covlc.virginia.gov/>. All training and certifications are mandatory and are **due no later than May 31, 2020**.
- ❑ To access, search on keyword SPCC 2020 (exact phrase) in the course catalog and select:
 - DOA - Cardholder Supervisor Reviewer Training 2020
 - DOA - SPCC Cardholder Training 2020

- ❑ If you need assistance logging into the Learning Center, please contact Kristi Clore at 434.220.3329 or Kristi.clore@dof.virginia.gov.

(Note: Google Chrome is the recommended browser for all training. Users who only have Internet Explorer will need to Delete Browsing History/Cookies and Turn OFF Compatibility View.)

News You Can Use

State Budget Update

- ◆ The General Assembly held its' reconvened session on April 22 to consider the Governor's amendments to both legislation and the budget. As expected, the General Assembly approved the Governor's amendments to the budget with little change.
- ◆ Because of the COVID-19 crisis the new spending initiatives approved by the legislature in March remain in the approved budget, but with restrictions added by the Governor. The restrictions require agencies to receive approval by the Governor before accessing the new funding. For VDOF that means funding for the new Hardwood Incentive Program, Watershed Improvement positions, agency internships, and IFRIS planning still remain in our budget, but we will not be able to move forward with these initiatives.
- ◆ In addition, there will be a reforecast of expected revenue for the FY21-22 biennium budget in July/August. As has been reported in the media it will likely result in significant reductions in state revenue. At this point I don't know how the re-forecast might impact VDOF. However, what we can do right now to prepare is to continue to follow the Governor's directive to eliminate non-essential, non-federal fund spending.
- ◆ I understand this is a stressful time for staff on multiple levels and we will provide you information and updates on budget related matters as circumstances become clearer. Please reach out to your local or senior manager if you have any questions.

Coming Up

Open Enrollment

- ◆ **Open Enrollment is May 1 – 15, 2020.** This is the time each year you are eligible to make changes to your health benefits and flexible spending accounts (FSAs). Watch for information to be mailed to your home address and emails from HR.

Items of Note

Camp Woods & Wildlife – Canceled

- ◆ The agency has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Camp Woods & Wildlife, due to COVID-19 uncertainties and the difficulty recruiting campers when they and their nominators are out of school. This year's nominees will be retained for 2021, and donor funds will be rolled forward or refunded at their request. Thanks to all staff who had committed to help with camp. We will see you next year!

Delta Dental ID Cards Mailed in Error

- ◆ DHRM was notified that separate Delta Dental specific ID cards were mailed in error recently to a number of COVA Care, COVA HDHP, and COVA HealthAware plan participants. All affected participants will receive a letter from Delta Dental explaining the error.
- ◆ Since the current member ID cards include the Delta Dental information, these cards should be destroyed as there may be discrepancies in coverage levels.

Project Updates

Cardinal Project

- ◆ The following time codes have been eliminated from IFRIS. Changes were made to streamline time reporting and remove duplicate paths to the same funding source. The goal is to have fewer choices to simplify the process without impacting functionality – you will be hearing more about this project in the future.
 - The time codes in the below table were removed because they were infrequently used and somewhat duplicative since good alternatives exist in IFRIS.

Time Category	Time Code	Alternative Time Category/Time Code
DOF Real Estate Management	All Other Acquisitions	Agency Administration - Other Agency Programms/Work Units
DOF Real Estate Management	Forest Legacy Acquisitions	Conservation Easement Mgt - Forest Legacy Project
DOF Real Estate Management	Surplus and Leases	Agency Administration - Other Agency Programms/Work Units
IT & Telecom Services	Computer Hardware	Agency Administration - Other Agency Programms/Work Units
Law Enforcement	Seed Tree Law Enforcement	Agency Administration - Forest Management Administration
Prof Services - Land Conserv	Forest Legacy	Conservation Easement Mgt - Forest Legacy Project
Prof Services - Land Conserv	Land Conservation - Chesapeake Bay	Grants/Funds - Dedicated: Chesapeake Bay Program
Prof Services - Water Quality	Chesapeake Bay Act Enforcement	Grants/Funds - Dedicated: Chesapeake Bay RAP
Prof Services - Water Quality	ChesBay Grant Program	Grants/Funds - Dedicated: Chesapeake Bay Program
Public Outreach/Ed - For Markets	Virginia Grown Program	Professional Services - Forest Markets - Virginia Grown Program
Public Outreach/Ed - Forest Mgt	DGIF Quail Program	Agency Administration - Forest Management Administration
Public Outreach/Ed - Forest Mgt	RT	Agency Administration - RT Administration
Public Outreach/Ed - Land Conserv	Forest Legacy	Conservation Easement Mgt - Forest Legacy Project
Public Outreach/Ed - Land Conserv	Land Conservation - Chesapeake Bay	Grants/Funds - Dedicated: Chesapeake Bay Program
Public Outreach/Ed - Water Quality	Chesapeake Bay Grants Program	Grants/Funds - Dedicated: Chesapeake Bay Program
Public Outreach/Ed - Water Quality	ChesBay Watershed Monitoring & Enforcement	Grants/Funds - Dedicated: Chesapeake Bay RAP
Vehicles & Equipment	FEPP & FFP	Agency Administration - Other Agency Programms/Work Units
Vehicles & Equipment	Surplus of State Property	Agency Administration - Other Agency Programms/Work Units

- The time codes in the below table were removed because the projects have ended.

Time Category	Expiring Time Code
Agency Administration	SGSF 2018
DOF State Lands Management	NursLLProj
Grants/Funds - Dedicated	DGIF Quail Program
Grants/Funds - Dedicated	Landowner Improvement Longleaf
Grants/Funds - Dedicated	Protect/Expand Long Leaf Pine Seed Source
Grants/Funds - Dedicated	UTC Stormwater Management-LSR
Info Systems Projects	IFRISCstShr
Prof Services - Forest Markets	Advanced Woodbasket Workshop
Prof Services - Forest Markets	Mapping Southeast Forest Products
Prof Services - Forest Markets	Mid-Atlantic Forest Product Exports
Prof Services - Forest Markets	SRTS Model Training
Public Outreach/Ed - Water Quality	Stormwater Management

- ◆ If you have any questions, please contact [Faye Difazio](#).

Policy and Procedures

- ◆ [Policy and Procedure 7-1 Forest Management Planning](#) describes the different plans available to landowners and the information contained in each plan. Forest management planning is one of the most important services that VDOF provides for private landowners. We develop forestry "road maps" that, if followed, will help lead the landowner to achieving their forest management goals. VDOF develops several different management plans depending upon the landowner's objectives and level of participation.
- ◆ [Policy and Procedure 7-4 Rural Forestry Technical Procedures](#) will provide information on how to conduct the inspections as well as reporting the information to the landowner and other agencies, if cost-share is involved. VDOF provides a number of technical services for private landowners, from conducting pine and hardwood planting quality and survival inspections to timber marking.

Urban Wood Project

- ◆ Last week, the Virginia urban wood program participated in a virtual presentation to the Virginia Master Naturalists. Hosted by Virginia Tech Extension, the hour-long urban wood webinar was attended by seventy-seven Master Naturalists from the Eastern Shore to Wise County!
- ◆ Besides a PowerPoint presentation, the audience was also able to view the Harrisonburg urban wood program video which was produced in 2019 as a cooperative project by VDOF's urban & community forestry and urban wood program areas. The following are links to both the Harrisonburg and Roanoke urban wood videos:
 - Harrisonburg – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51mhAV3R7cw&feature=youtu.be>
 - Roanoke – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeyzNS56rl4>

Last Week

State Forester

- ◆ Virginia entities received three Wood Innovation Grants from the USDA Forest Service that will advance the potential for increased use of wood products.
 - Virginia Tech received two grants to develop markets for low-value hardwoods. One project is for Expanding Markets for Thermally-modified Wood Products Produced and one for Increasing Hardwood Utilization in Cross-laminated Timber.
 - Next Generation Woods, Inc., in Hiwassee, VA received a grant to look at expanded use of Biochar.

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Charlie Becker (utilization & marketing program manager) participated in a conference call of the Virginia International Trade Plan Working Group. The goal of the group is to help implement parts of the recently approved plan. Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) is the lead agency. Those on the call provided updates on their agencies' activities related to the plan. Due to the COVID-19 crisis and concerns about how it will affect budgets and programs, some activities will be delayed. The group will focus over the next few months on activities in the plan that will not require additional funds, and will prepare to have things in place for a quick start once the crisis is over.
- ◆ Ed Zimmer (deputy state forester) and Charlie Becker attended the weekly conference call of the Governor's Economic Crisis Strike Force. This call covered the latest updates of the various work groups on the Strike Force.

- ◆ Joe Lehnen (utilization & marketing specialist) and Lara Johnson (urban & community forestry program manager) participated in a conference call with representative of Florida Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry to share information about VDOF's urban wood program.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ VDOF has received a renewed spotted lanternfly permit from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). The spotted lanternfly is a federally regulated invasive insect that was first discovered in Virginia two years ago. A quarantine currently exists for the City of Winchester and Frederick County, and our permit allows VDOF staff to move in and out of these areas after completing self-inspections. Vehicles must be inspected every time you leave the quarantine area, and the [self-inspection checklist](#) should be completed and kept in your vehicle as a record. You can find more information here: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml>. Please direct questions to Lori Chamberlin at lori.chamberlin@dof.virginia.gov.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) and Katlyn DeWitt (forest health specialist) treated 66 hemlock trees that were infested with hemlock woolly adelgid at First Mountain State Forest. The initial treatment will provide one year of control, so a subsequent treatment this fall or next spring with a different pesticide is planned in order to provide up to seven years of control.
- ◆ Gary Heiser (state forests manager) met with VDGF game biologist at First Mountain State Forest to discuss wildlife management and hunting recommendations.
- ◆ Augusta Forestry Center continues to ship seedlings for this season, and orders YTD total 1,095.
- ◆ Garland Gray Forestry Center personnel have applied fertilizer, lime and micronutrients to the fields for next season's loblolly pine crop. The next step is contract fumigation. Seeding is planned to begin May 4.

Central Region

- ◆ Dean Cumbia (forest resource management branch director), David Powell (senior area forester) and Chuck Wright (area forester) combined their efforts to complete an afforestation project on the Goochland Men's Correctional Facility. The trio used backpack sprayers to treat fescue and other grasses in the field. In addition, trees were replanted in areas where survival from last year's planting was poor.
- ◆ While traveling back from the Goochland project, David Powell was the first on the scene of a major three-car accident on Route 29 in Albemarle County and provided initial scene stabilization until local fire and rescue personnel arrived.

Western Region

- ◆ VDOF has worked with the Laurel Creek Community in Montgomery County since 2008 as part of our Firewise USA Program to mitigate wildfire risk in Virginia's wildland-urban interface. Recently VDOF, USFS and community residents joined forces through the Cross Boundaries Program to complete a prescribed burn, which reduces the threat of uncontrolled wildfire to this woodland-home community. The link below highlights this longtime, successful partnership. Special recognition goes to Brad Wright (PT fire mitigation specialist) and our Blue Ridge work area team for making it happen. <https://community.nfpa.org/community/fire-break/blog/2020/04/14/working-across-boundaries-to-help-protect-communities>
- ◆ Adam Cumpston (water quality specialist) utilized a drone on the Slate Dump fire in Buchanan County to assist the incident command (IC) with gathering information. Using the drone, the IC was quickly

able to receive information on existing roads that could be used as fire lines, as well as locations of unburned fuel inside the lines that presented a risk of fire jumping the lines. The drone saved hours of scouting for firefighters and eliminated the need to put firefighters in steep, overgrown and rocky terrain which could be hazardous.

- ◆ During our COVID-19 fire season, the Western Region has experienced two large fires –1,000 acres in Buchanan County and 750 acres in Lee/Scott Counties. Many thanks to all the firefighters who answered the call during these stressful days and protected lives, property and natural resources. For those of you unfamiliar with a plume grass fire in our Blackwater section of Southwest Virginia, the accompanying picture shows PT VDOF firefighter Roger Carter setting backfire next to 10' plume grass. Flame heights and rate of spread can be impressive and life threatening! (pictured)



- ◆ Patti Nylander (senior area forester) met with City of Waynesboro officials to celebrate Arbor Day. A sycamore tree was planted in Ridgeview Park, and the event was captured on video. City staff shared information about how to properly plant a balled and burlap tree in an urban setting, and Patti shared the benefits of being a Tree City. Waynesboro celebrates 30 years being a Tree City USA this year!

Public Information

- ◆ Page Hutchinson (Project Learning Tree coordinator) is participating in video calls to adapt the general Facilitator's Guide to MWEE Training by the Chesapeake Bay Programs to a Virginia-specific guide. Page is heading up the committee to create an environmental literacy plan template for school divisions to use as they create their individual environmental literacy plans for their schools.
- ◆ At the request of National Project Learning Tree, Page Hutchinson is creating the Green Schools Certification process for Early Childhood Centers. Any Early Childhood Center that wants Green School recognition and to receive the banner, will need to complete the five Green Schools investigations (on an Early Childhood level) and complete the Certification Process.
- ◆ VDOF and the James River Association partnered on a news release about the progress of the James River Buffer Program, funded by VEEE. The release was sent to statewide media.
- ◆ The public information team launched a #EarthDay50 social media campaign April 20. The campaign's primary focus is water quality, but also includes content from #HealthyTreesHealthyLives and promotes Earth Day "events" around the state. The North American Partnership is collaborating with VDOF to further push out our messages on the #ForestProud platforms.
- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator) presented a webinar entitled "Pondering Pines" for the Virginia Master Naturalist network. Eighty-two Master Naturalists attended.
- ◆ Raina DeFonza (public information specialist) and Page Hutchinson completed a video, "The Shape of Things," to add to the PLT resources.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MROsd-0z5Ts&feature=youtu.be>
- ◆ Raina DeFonza, Lara Johnson and Molly O'Liddy (urban & community forestry partnership coordinator) made a short video to virtually celebrate Arbor Day (alongside the #ArborDayAtHome campaign.)
<https://youtu.be/26h32T674f8>

News Clips:

- ◆ [Scientists uncover a 60,000-year-old forest underwater and think its preserved trees may help pioneer new medicines](#)

- ◆ [A Success Story: An Old Investment Helps Yield Downstream Results](#) (see reference to Rivanna Watershed)
- ◆ [Press Release: Buffer Program Plants 81,700 Trees](#)