

**From:** [Zimmer, Edward](#)  
**To:** [DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Branch message  
**Date:** Monday, August 3, 2020 9:07:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [2020-08-03final.pdf](#)

---

Rob is on a well-deserved vacation this week, but provided the message below to accompany the Branch.

The agency had at least one more person suffer a heat-related injury that required a visit to the ER. Please continue to take care of yourself and your co-workers when working in these hot and humid conditions.

Good morning everyone;

I visited the Blue Ridge work area on Monday and got to spend some time with Joe Boswell, Joe Cotner, Johnny Vest, and David Tompkins. Joe and Johnny had participated in the hardwood training so we talked about the challenges facing us in hardwood management. In the afternoon, Joe and David and I visited the Fraley property in Botetourt County. Jerry Fraley is one of the biggest private landowners in Virginia and he and his family are active land managers with an emphasis on hardwood management for deer habitat. It was great to see the strong relationship between our folks and this family, developed on many prescribed burns and timber harvests. We have also been working with the Fraley's for many years on a potential land conservation project and Jerry had high praise for Andrew Fotinos for his work on this complicated project.

Last week we held our first virtual meeting in our effort to develop urban tree protection policy and potentially new legislation to help localities maintain tree canopy. Thanks to Lara Johnson and Terry Lasher for their work organizing that effort.

John Miller, Ed Zimmer and I had a virtual meeting with Curtis Brown, the new director of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. He extended his thanks on behalf of VDEM for all the support that VDOF provided for the statewide IMT related to COVID-19. Thankfully VDOF's role in the COVID-19 assignment just ended. John Miller has a summary of the time VDOF committed to that in the Branch this week. Of course, just a couple days later, VDEM asked us to help them stand up an IMT for Hurricane Isaias.

Check out the Branch this week for some great photos from the Governor's signing event for the heir's property legislation and from the agency recognition lunch at Tuckahoe Plantation.

And lastly, please join me in well-wishes for three of the DOF family that are moving on to new opportunities and challenges: Meredith Bean, Joe Boswell, and Charlie Becker. Enjoy the cooler weather this week, I know I will.

Rob Farrell  
State Forester  
Virginia Department of Forestry  
900 Natural Resources Drive, #800  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
office (434) 220-9047

cell (757) 810-6943  
fax (434) 220-9140

[rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov)

[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)