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Contents

Employee Spotlight..... 1
 Senior Area Forester David Powell – Congratulations! 1

Employee News 1
 Thank You! 1

Project Updates 2
 Policy and Procedures 2

News You Can Use 2
 Asian Longhorned Beetle 2

Items of Note 2
 2019 Virginia Project Learning Tree (PLT) Outstanding Educator 2

Last Week:..... 3
 Forestland Conservation 3
 Forest Resource Management 3
 Agency Lands 3
 State-Owned Lands 4
 Central Region 4
 Eastern Region 5
 Public Information 5
 News Clips:..... 5

Employee Spotlight

Senior Area Forester David Powell – Congratulations!

- ◆ David Powell (Jefferson Work Area) was named a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters (SAF). He was recognized at the recent Virtual Forestry Summit. This prestigious honor is bestowed on members of the society who have provided long-standing service to SAF, the profession of forestry, and are ambassadors for the advancement of forestry. Congratulations, David!

Employee News

Thank You!

- ◆ As the state office, the VDOF Headquarters Office receives calls from a wide range of locations, covering an equally wide range of topics. Our program support technicians field and address the large majority of these varied calls and answer or direct their calls to the appropriate VDOF person who can.

Recently, Becky Woodson (forest management programs coordinator) received an unusual call with the question, “Can you tell me who cut my timber over 10 years ago?” Becky contacted Central Region folks, and in keeping with our desire to serve, several worked to assist this landowner including Charlene Barden (program support technician), Tom Snoddy (forester), Patrick Murphy (senior area forester), Chad Wisecarver (forest technician), Ricky Butler (forester specialist), Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer) and Kevin Dawson (water quality specialist). Thanks to all for your efforts to serve and help.

Project Updates

Policy and Procedures

- ◆ [Policy and Procedure 01-01 Governing Documents and Change Management](#) – Minor updates were made to the change process for initiating and updating all policy and procedures, forms, other governing documents and business processes within VDOF.
- ◆ [Policy and Procedure 17-02 Ash Removal and Replacement Cost-Share Program](#) – New Policy and Procedure on the new cost-share program.

News You Can Use

Asian Longhorned Beetle

- ◆ The Asian longhorned beetle was recently found in South Carolina. It is an invasive insect that infests and kills many tree species, primarily maple trees. This beetle has not yet been found in Virginia, but watch this webinar to learn more about it and what to look for:
<http://www.forestrywebinars.net/webinars/asian-longhorned-beetle-a-new-invasive-tree-pest-in-south-carolina>

Items of Note

2019 Virginia Project Learning Tree (PLT) Outstanding Educator

- ◆ Dr. Patricia Stohr-Hunt was voted as the 2019 VA PLT Outstanding Educator for her long commitment to PLT. Tricia has been a PLT facilitator since 2004, has served on the Steering Committee since 2005, and routinely integrates PLT into her science methods courses for pre-service teachers and offers workshops on campus that include teachers from local school divisions.
- ◆ Normally the award would be given in the spring at the VFA Forest Summit. This year the Summit was moved to a virtual format on Aug. 12 and 13. Tricia finally received her award at the beautiful campus of University of Richmond and a video of her receiving was shown at the Summit.
- ◆ We offer many congratulations and much thanks to Tricia for her outstanding contributions to PLT.



Last Week:

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ The deadline for the 2020 Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) grant was Friday, August 14. The U&CF team has received 22 applications and will be ranking them with a committee within the next couple of weeks. Awards will be issued starting September 1 and field staff will be sent a copy of the approved applications.
- ◆ Applications are rolling in for the Ash Removal and Replacement grant. The deadline for these applications is September 18, 2020. Please make sure interested communities are aware of the opportunity.
- ◆ Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager) and Walker Wolff (area forester) met with representatives from the Central Shenandoah Planning District, Town of Glasgow and Town of Buena Vista to discuss potential community tree planting projects.
- ◆ Terry Lasher attended the Chesapeake Bay Management Board virtual meeting. Topics of discussion relevant to VDOF were the riparian forest buffers goals, afforestation projects and current progress.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health manager) prepared a presentation for the 2020 Virginia Forestry Virtual Summit on August 12, with approximately 120 participants. This session featured a forest health panel with two other forest health professionals who provided information and answered questions from attendees that were submitted prior to the session. As always, forest health was a popular topic. Great job, Lori!
- ◆ Todd Groh (forest resource management program coordinator) and Dean Cumbia (director of forest resource management) prepared and presented the suggested forest land use values to a virtual meeting of the State Land Use Evaluation and Advisory Council (SLEAC) on August 12. The values were determined using a forestry financial analysis model which factors variables of site quality, type of management, forest type, type of forest management, and timber prices. Additional thanks go to Becky Woodson for her assistance in gathering stumpage price data. The suggested values are provided to counties with forestry use value taxation, which allows forested properties to be taxed on the use (forestry) rather than the fair market real estate value.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Bids were opened on August 12 for a thinning sale on the Cumberland State Forest. The sale is a per unit sale with an estimated value of \$53,635.00 based upon the high bidder's bid values of \$18.50/ton for pine sawtimber and \$6.50/ton for pine pulpwood. The high bidder was Emerson & Clements Woodyard. Thanks to Shannon Lewis (forest management forester) for his efforts in putting out this sale.
- ◆ Ed Stoots (state lands coordinator) toured Cumberland State Forest with Shannon Lewis on August 11 to look at past and future management of several stands, obtain some historical knowledge of Cumberland State Forest and discuss future management needs.

- ◆ Dennis Gaston (state forests forester) presented payment in lieu of taxes to Suffolk for wood sold from the South Quay State Forest located in their area. Pictured is the delivery of payment in lieu of taxes to City of Suffolk Deputy Treasurer, Andrew Owen.
- ◆ Mike Womack (forest management specialist) presented a payment check in lieu of taxes to the Buckingham Board of Supervisors for the value of timber harvested in Fiscal Year 2020.
- ◆ Thank you to Joe Rossetti (senior area forester) for securing a contractor to do invasive species control work on the Whitney State Forest and to Lori Chamberlain and the forest health team for the grant funding to pay for the treatment.
- ◆ Thank you to Matt Wolanski (senior area forester) for securing a contractor to do invasive species control work on the Paul State Forest and to Lori Chamberlain and the forest health team for partial funding of the treatment. State Forest funds will pay for \$1,200.00 worth of the follow-up spray treatment to ensure the entire area is treated where goats were used earlier to "eat down" the invaders first.



State-Owned Lands

- ◆ Chuck Wright (area forester) submitted seedling needs for a riparian buffer planting job at the Gochland Women's Correctional Facility. The project will plant approximately 30 acres of an open field along the James River this next planting season, giving increased protection and enhanced water quality. Thank you to Chuck and to Department of Corrections (DOC) staff who will be assisting with mowing the field later this summer. The field will also be sprayed after mowing to prepare for planting this winter.
- ◆ Chuck Wright will be showing a contractor invasive species control work on the College of William & Mary Ash Lawn property this week. The area to treat is an existing kudzu stand along a powerline that has invaded adjoining pine stands that are planned to be harvested. Chuck will also show invasive species control work on the Gochland Women's Center within the timber sale area sold earlier this year. Plans include pre-treatment of the invasives prior to the harvest.

Central Region

- ◆ Matt Wolanski (senior area forester) and Annie Ligush (bay riparian buffer specialist) along with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) met with John and Diane Begala to further develop a 20-acre hardwood planting, a native meadow establishment and cover crop planting. Mr. Begala currently serves as a Legislative Advisor for Governor Northam. Mr. and Mrs. Begala really appreciated the visit and the services our agency and SWCD offer.
- ◆ Patrick Murphy (senior area forester) met with the leadership of Boy Scout Troop 800 out of Midlothian on their camp property in Cumberland County. They discussed a forestry demonstration area for forestry merit badge, the use of natural features to accent their site and a fire break/hiking trail around the property as a dual purpose tool. Currently just 22 acres, the Troop hopes to acquire another 40 acres in the near future for the camp to serve all area youth groups. This meeting will be the first of many to help support the goals of the troop and a new partnership between both parties.
- ◆ Kevin Dawson (water quality specialist) continued working with Raina DeFonza (public information specialist) on an internal harvest inspection training video in Campbell County. Photos of best

management practices (BMPs) and accompanying videos were taken this week. The final product is nearing completion.

Eastern Region

- ◆ Clint Phegley, Dave Slack (area foresters), Eli Podyma (community forest specialist), Jesse Bander (forest technician) and Jeremy Falkenau (senior area forester) assisted the Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with setup and delivery of a series of mini Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) events across four Hanover County Middle Schools. Topics included use of dichotomous keys, the water cycle, watersheds, water quality testing, bioindicators, riparian buffers and the introduction of student action projects.
- ◆ Jesse Bander assisted Lisa Deaton (area forester) with treatment of two emerald ash borer-infested ash trees at Middlesex Courthouse.

Public Information

- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation educator) assisted Mark Thomas of Southside Electric Cooperative with an upcoming article in Cooperative Living Magazine about fall foliage in Virginia.
- ◆ On Thursday, August 13 Page Hutchinson (state coordinator Project LearningTree) led a Watershed Scavenger Hunt at Liberty Middle School for students in the Jumpstart program. She is supporting the Hanover County Middle Schools in completing the GreenSchools investigations with a focus on an Action Project that supports MWEE and the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. Of course, there's a strong component of the role of trees in watershed protection!
- ◆ On Wednesday, August 12 Page Hutchinson led part one of a blended online workshop, *Energy in Ecosystems*, for teachers of grades 3-5 and some non-formal educators. The participants are completing the online portion over the next three weeks and will come back together for a final video conferencing call to debrief and reflect on how to use this unit in supporting their curriculum in a virtual learning world.
- ◆ Page was asked by National Project Learning Tree (PLT) to create the Certification Application for the Early Childhood GreenSchools program. She submitted the first final draft of this application for perusal by national PLT.
- ◆ Field Notes: [Out of the Ashes](#) and [Scouting for Trees](#)

News Clips:

- ◆ [Loggers ask for tax exemption](#)
- ◆ [GreenTrees Becomes World's 11th Largest Forestry Project](#)
- ◆ [Massive wood slabs market to eclipse \\$2 billion by 2030](#)
- ◆ [Virginia lumber company announces \\$2.4M expansion](#)
- ◆ [U.S. Endowment, Enviva and the Virginia Department of Forestry team up to protect working forests in Virginia](#)
- ◆ [U.S. electricity generation from wood biomass](#)