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Employee News

Congratulations!

- ◆ Congratulations to Joe Rossetti (senior area forester) and wife Gina on the birth of a baby girl. Angelica Rossetti was born on September 14 at 1:20 AM. Mom, baby and dad are all doing great!

Condolences

- ◆ Former VDOF Human Resource Director Robbie Greenlee passed away September 16. Please see the link for details. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyprogress/obituary.aspx?n=robbie-anne-greenlee&pid=196812956>

News You Can Use

Flu Shots

- ◆ Getting a flu shot this year is more important than ever. The more people who receive the flu shot, the higher our community immunity levels will be, and there will be less pressure on the healthcare system from seasonal flu and pneumonia. This will ensure available capacity to meet the needs placed on the healthcare system by COVID-19.
- ◆ During the 2020-21 flu season, state health plan members may again get a free flu shot at pharmacies participating in their health plan’s network. Visit www.dhrm.virginia.gov/healthcoverage/flucshotinformation to find participating providers, and

questions and answers on each plan. It is important to call ahead to ensure the pharmacy is participating in the program and flu shots are available. An appointment may be required.

- ◆ COVA Care, COVA HDHP and COVA HealthAware members also may receive shots at no cost from network physicians' offices and other participating providers.

Acorn Collection

- ◆ The webpage about acorn collection has been updated for the 2020 collection season. Nut donations from the public are due to Augusta Forestry Center by October 16. Collection procedures, requested species and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found here:
<https://dof.virginia.gov/tree/acorn-collect.htm>

Last Week

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ VDOF Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF), Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and Trees Virginia staff hosted the first Waynesboro Tree Webinar on "Leveraging Technology to Care for Mature Trees" with Van Yahres Tree Company. More than 320 people watched virtually. This is the first of a month-long series happening every Wednesday in September.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester) organized and led the meeting for the Southern Region Urban Wood partners consisting of staff from Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi and Oklahoma.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen attended the First Fridays meeting of the Baltimore Urban Wood Project, a monthly teleconference coordinated by Sarah Hines and Morgan Grove, both from U.S. Forest Service (USFS).
- ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester) attended the first of four meetings of the stakeholder advisory group for the Wetlands/Stream Bank Credits and Tree Preservation project. The group discussed local authority for legislation pertaining to tree preservation, wetland banking scarcity, stream bank concerns and development practices in Virginia.

Agency Lands

- ◆ The Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest received bids for a total harvest of 48 acres on September 9 consisting of 570,300 board feet for pine and hardwood sawtimber and 1,351 tons of pine & hardwood pulpwood. The winning bidder was RCT Logging, LLC at a bid of \$107,793.00.
- ◆ 2020 Forest Management Surveillance Field Audits for Sustainable Forest Certification and American Tree Farm Certification were conducted September 8-10 with visits to Crawford, Zoar, Sandy Point, Dragon Run, Browne and Cumberland State Forests. Preliminary audits found that the State Forest management is in full conformity with the referenced standards being audited. Audit results will be finalized in the coming weeks with a written report submitted to VDOF when ready.
- ◆ Zach Olinger (forest management & education specialist) hosted two educational programs for 16 students with our partner group Blue Ridge Discovery Center.

Western Region

- ◆ Members of the Mountain Valley team met Adam Downing with VCE to perform "search and destroy" invasive species control work in a 50-acre woodlot at the McCormick Farm Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Plans are underway to perform an expanding gap timber harvest to promote and demonstrate hardwood regeneration in the maturing stand. Backpack sprayers were used to perform basal bark treatment of ailanthus, autumn olive bushes and Japanese barberry to reduce their spread potential after the harvest takes place. While the team was spraying trees with herbicide, Charlie

Huppuch and Bill Braford sprayed trees to mark the initial gaps. Charlie and Bill have been longtime members of the Forest Reapers, the Forestry Planning Committee that has overseen management projects at McCormick Farm for almost 20 years. Virginia Tech will also be performing natural regeneration surveys before and after the timber harvest.

Central Region

- ◆ Drew Arnn (senior area forester) participated in the Ag Day event at Heritage Academy in Pittsylvania County and presented to several classes about fire prevention, forest management and the importance of forest products.
- ◆ Kevin Dawson (water quality specialist) was contacted by Ron Jenkins of the Virginia Loggers Association (VLA) regarding a logging bridge that was installed on a tract in Lynchburg and funded through the Water Quality Improvement Fund. Donnie Reaves (logger) had spoken to Ron about how grateful he was for the VDOF assistance with pre-harvest planning, the cost share program and the assistance with crossing design and implementation. The crossing is a double bridge crossing, the first bridge crosses an existing sewer line and the second crosses the stream. The approaches have been corduroyed with woods and laps and was installed in a very professional manner. Ron reached out to VDOF about the possibility of doing a story regarding the agency working with Mr. Reaves and the success of the bridge project. This project is an excellent example of communication and how VDOF and the logging community can solve challenges by working together (pictured).
- ◆ Matt Wolanski (senior area forester) presented to the Rotary club in Shenandoah County, discussing the services that VDOF offers and ongoing projects with the Town of Strasburg.



Public Information

- ◆ Page Hutchinson (Project Learning Tree [PLT] coordinator) has been working each morning with Mrs. Shannon King, a Louisa High School teacher, and her 11th and 12th grade ecology students for the past few weeks. The students are doing the "Monitoring Forest Health" investigation from PLT's Focus on Forests module as part of their classwork. Each group of five students has set up a circular plot with a radius of 25 feet in the forested area on the school property. Besides getting field experience, the students are being filmed for a virtual module that Page and Mrs. King will create when the investigation is complete. During October and November, the students will be participating in the other activities in the module which will also be filmed. This is an exciting and worthwhile project!
- ◆ On September 9, Page Hutchinson presented at the monthly meeting of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism and world understanding. Page introduced PLT and then led the teachers in several PLT activities.

News Clips

- ◆ [Natural area management webinar series for green industry professionals slated](#)

- ◆ [Halifax forester win award](#)
- ◆ Acorns: [Seeking acorns and nuts to be grown into seedlings](#) and [Virginia Dept. of Forestry asks residents to donate acorns, nuts](#)
- ◆ [UVA engineers aim to design sensor network to detect wildfires](#)