



**September 28, 2020**

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**Employee News**

*Leaving VDOF*

- ◆ David Terwilliger (Capital work area forester) is retiring from VDOF on October 1 after 36+ years of service. Congratulations David, enjoy your well-deserved retirement.
- ◆ David Stone (Jefferson work area forester specialist) is retiring from VDOF on October 1 after 27 years of service. Congratulations David, enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

**News You Can Use**

*Seedling Store*

- ◆ The VDOF seedling store will open October 1 at 8:00 a.m. Please direct all orders to the online store [www.buyvatrees.com](http://www.buyvatrees.com) or one of the nurseries.

## Disposition of Records

- ◆ As we conclude our year-end work, it's time for us to once again dispose of records in accordance with the Library of VA records retention schedule. Our plan is to have a truck come on-site to dispose of our records and want to make sure that you have the opportunity to do the same, if you would like.
- ◆ We plan to have a truck at the HQ building during the first week of November (day to be determined). If you would like to have your records disposed of, please make sure that your RM3 forms are in place and provide [Jessica Carroll](#) with an estimate of the volume to be destroyed and we will work with the shredding company to include your records for destruction on that day. If you have any questions about record retention schedules and approvals, please contact [Mary Weaver](#).

## Did You Know

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- ◆ Lesesne State Forest will be 52 on October 1.

## Project Updates

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### Policy and Procedures

- ◆ [Policy and Procedures 5-2 Motor Vehicle Operation](#) – Minor updates in regards to the fuel card have been made.
- ◆ [Policy and Procedures 7-2 Rural Financial Assistance Programs](#) has been updated to include procedures for two privately funded programs, the James River Buffer Program and the Mountains to Bay (B2B) Grazing Initiative Program, and another federally funded program, the Golden Winged Warbler Initiative. All three of these programs are area specific and not statewide. The USDA program agency responsibility process lists for EQIP, CAP#106, GWWI, CSP, CRP, and CREP have also been included in these procedures as appendices at the end of the document. Hopefully, these new updates will provide answers to most of your financial assistance program administration questions.
- ◆ [Policy and Procedures 7-3 Rural Forestry Laws](#) has been updated slightly, primarily to change an agency name from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR).

## Last Week

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### State Forester

- ◆ The Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI) has chosen to work with VDOF for their inaugural VNRLI alumni workgroup project. The project will address ways to reduce social and environmental impacts resulting from solar energy development projects.
- ◆ VDOF is working with Professor Lisa Powell at Sweet Briar College to incorporate forest management into the new natural resources curriculum being developed at the college. VDOF will participate in the class over the next several weeks.
- ◆ Rob Farrell participated in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) resource management committee virtual meeting primarily focused on the update to the SFI certification standard.
- ◆ Rob Farrell, Terry Lasher (assistant state forester), and Caitlin Clark from Virginia Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (VDACS) participated in a virtual meeting with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the South Carolina Forestry Commission to continue plans for ending the Chinese

ban on pine log exports from Virginia and North Carolina. VDOF and VDACS will lead a webinar with potential exporters to ensure that there is enough interest from Virginia companies to support a pilot export program if approved.

### **Forestland Conservation**

- ◆ Lara Johnson (urban & community forestry [U&CF] program manager), Molly O'Liddy (U&CF partnership coordinator) and Denny McCarthy (area forester) attended a virtual Roanoke Valley Urban Forest Council meeting to discuss Arbor Day initiatives, response to COVID-19 and the 2021 Roanoke Workshop.
- ◆ Lara Johnson presented to several communities in the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission about Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) goals and programs available at VDOF to assist with tree planting efforts.
- ◆ Lara Johnson met with Lexington's new City Horticulturist Celia Raney, to discuss International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification, available programs at VDOF and potential partnership opportunities.
- ◆ Molly O'Liddy traveled to the Central Virginia Training Center in Lynchburg to conduct an inventory for a new economic development project. The landscape architects of the project would like to save some of the large, historical trees during this new development venture.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester) received printed copies of the "Woodland Health Practices Handbook - A Practitioner's Guide for Creating, Enhancing, and Maintaining Natural Areas". This will serve as the participants' training manual for the small parcel business opportunities webinar series beginning in late October. Joe was one of the co-authors of this book along with representatives from Penn State Extension, University of Maryland Extension, Virginia Tech Extension and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
- ◆ VDOF worked with many partners to present a GenerationNEXT Legacy Planning Virtual Workshop. The virtual workshop, which had 92 participants from all over the country, was held in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension with support from the USFS, Piedmont Environmental Council, Tree Farm, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services, The Black Family Land Trust and the National Woodland Owners Association. Terry Lasher presented an overview of Virginia's forests, ownership demographics and succession planning. The workshop provides free legal guidance and landowner stories about successful estate planning steps and strategies to keep forests in forest, intact and in the family.
- ◆ Terry Lasher represented the VDOF on the Voluntary Agricultural Best Management Practices work group. The group is attempting to construct a voluntary survey for agricultural producers to find ways to best assist with practices and programs to improve water quality.
- ◆ The ash removal and replacement cost-share deadline was September 18. We have received 20 applications from across the state. The grant ranking team will be reviewing applications.
- ◆ Lara Johnson and Molly O'Liddy traveled to various communities to inspect ash trees for the removal and replacement project. Proposals included Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, and Ash Lawn Highland.

### **Forest Resource Management**

- ◆ On September 15, Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) conducted a lunchtime webinar for the Appalachian Lumberman's Club. The topic was non-native invasive forest health disturbances and how they get here.

- ◆ The State Land Use Evaluation and Advisory Council (SLEAC) met virtually on September 16. The suggested forestry land use values that VDOF presented in August were adopted. More information on the values and the program are available at <https://aaec.vt.edu/extension/use-value.html>.
- ◆ The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 provided for funding to state forestry agencies. The Act was revised in the 2018 Farm Bill to include the Forest Landscape Scale Restoration Program (LSR). LSR funding is now open competitively to non-profit organizations, universities, and the state forestry agencies. VDOF was asked to indicate support or to sign onto multiple projects proposed by outside parties. VDOF submitted several LSR proposals as the lead state to support the hardwood management initiative, more prescribed fire, and biocontrol of ailanthus. These proposals will compete with many others, and if chosen, the projects would begin in mid-2021.

### **Agency Lands**

- ◆ Jerre Creighton (research program manager) and beekeeper Diego Decorte traveled to Channels State Forest to retrieve the eight beehives that have spent the summer there as part of our effort to demonstrate the value of Virginia's various forest habitats for pollinators and honey production. There was special interest in Channels because of the amount of sourwood there, and the final collection indicates the bees produced roughly 200 pounds of sourwood honey in their three-month stay. The hives were safely returned to Albemarle County where they will spend the winter.
- ◆ Cumberland State Forest sold 675.30 MBF of mostly pine sawtimber with some hardwood sawtimber and 1,077 tons of hardwood & pine pulpwood on 41.7 acres for \$94,781.00 to RCT Logging, Inc.
- ◆ Dragon Run State Forest sold an estimated 16,573 tons of pine pulpwood on 350.9 acres to be thinned at a per unit rate of \$8.45 / ton to Canal Wood, LLC.
- ◆ Volunteers will be planting three of five open fields in the next couple of weeks in the Cumberland State Forest. State Forest staff will disc the sites with the volunteers purchasing the seed and planting the fields.
- ◆ Spraying to control hardwood in wildlife plots at Sandy Point State Forest was completed.

### **State-Owned Lands**

- ◆ Invasive species control work was completed on the Department of Corrections (DOC) Goochland Women's Center timber sale area.
- ◆ DOC staff completed spraying a 30-acre field that they had also mowed two to three weeks prior that will be planted as a riparian buffer along the James River at the Goochland Women's Center.
- ◆ Invasive species control work on kudzu was completed on the College of William & Mary - Ash Lawn State-Owned Lands property.



## Eastern Region

- ◆ On September 19, an S-130/190 field day was held at New Kent Forestry Center. Students learned the basics of wildland firefighting while rotating through stations focused on safety & communication, hand tools and line construction, engines and hose lays, and bulldozers. At the end of the day students participated in scenarios where they had to utilize the information they learned to create and implement a strategy to fight a wildfire (that was delineated by flagging). Extra precautions were taken throughout the training to minimize exposure risks of COVID-19 while maintaining an environment conducive to learning. Great job, Eli Podyma (community forester) and Joshua Just (forest technician), who completed the training. A big thank you goes out to all the instructors who made this training possible: Lisa Deaton, Doug Audley, Clint Phegley, Dave Houttekier, Dave Slack (area foresters), Kevin Dodson (forest technician), Rocky Hudson and Bruce Beiderman (part-timers). Wade West (part-timer) was present, representing New Kent Fire Department and assisting with the engine station. Heather Tuck (fire specialist) also helped with planning and logistics. (pictured)



- ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forester) and Scott Bachman (senior area forester) had a chance to go to the Dismal Swamp to look at the tornado damage they received during Tropical Storm Isaias. The overstory of maple/gum/ash got torn up in an eight-mile swath. The interesting thing is that there seems to be a good bit of cypress in the understory that will now have a chance to dominate, or at least it looks that way. Scott is scheduled to meet with the biologist there, Jen Wright, this week to look at spots to plant the 1,000 or so white cedar we are growing this year at the Garland Gray Forestry Center.

- ◆ Recently, a Navy E2C Hawkeye experienced problems during training flight near Wallops, in Accomack County. The pilot, co-pilot, and two crew members had to bail out of the plane, and were safely recovered a short time later. The plane was safely dropped into a field near Mason Road, near Bloxom. Kenny Midgett (forest technician) was working in the vicinity and responded to the scene with Tasley, Parksley, and Atlantic volunteer fire companies. Kenny monitored the woods edge



exposures, provided the initial foam application, helped move equipment and personnel, and provided support as the only vehicle of the initial response that could make it to the plane over very low, wet ground. The plane became fully involved in spite of the initial suppression effort. Around that time a large aircraft fire suppression vehicle was brought in from Wallops Navy base to fully suppress the fire.

A couple days later, Kenny assisted the Navy in recovering a parachute used by one of the flight crew as they had to bail out of the plane. (pictured)

## Central Region

- ◆ Jim McGlone (urban forest conservationist) and Kinner Ingram (community forester) assisted the Fairfax County Park Authority 14-member Fire Team with its annual fire refresher. The Fire Team focuses on prescribed burns on Park Authority land in Fairfax County. While there was some discussion on firing prescribed burns, most of the training was on building and holding line and pump operation. There was also an extensive review on dealing with spot fires. The training was run by the team captain with Jim and Kinner providing input, particularly on fighting spot fires.
- ◆ Jim McGlone virtually attended the Washington Council of Governments Regional Tree Canopy Management Subcommittee. This subcommittee has been tasked with developing a strategy for the Washington Metro area for tree planting and preservation. This month they discussed and finalized a "Tree Planting and Preservation Cookbook," which provides example and guidance on writing ordinances for tree planting and preservation.
- ◆ Bill Perry (forester specialist) instructed a S-212, Wildland Powersaws course at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College for seven students enrolled in the forest management technology program.
- ◆ Over the past year, VDOF has been participating in a working group called Virginia Flight Information eXchange (VA-FIX). Basically, this product allows users to enter the drone project they are working on into the VA-FIX, so other unmanned aircraft system (UAS) users and pilots are aware of UAS activities in their vicinity for situational awareness. It will also show localities that public agencies are being transparent about UAS activities. VA-FIX is a platform for state and local public safety and government agencies to publish and share safety and community advisory information with each other, with unmanned system service providers, unmanned system operators, and the public for transparency and safety. The Virginia Department of Aviation, Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) have been leading the project. When this product went live in July, the VDOF had the first official advisory for the VA-FIX.
- ◆ This past week Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer) provided a short webinar recording sharing VDOF's experience with the VA-FIX and how beneficial it is to us for the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems (AUVSI) Xponential Conference that will be held in early October. The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics, represents corporations and professionals from more than 60 countries involved in industry, government and academia.

## Western Region

- ◆ Rocky Wood (forest technician) worked with foresters from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) investigating a probable timber trespass or theft case that also involves potential water quality and non-notification problems. Located near the community of Dante in Russell County, it is a small inholding within a large block of forestland managed by TNC and under a VDOF conservation easement.
- ◆ Andrew Vinson (water quality specialist) and Bill Sweeney (area forester) met with Jennifer Gagnon from the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program to film a segment of "Fifteen Minutes in the Forest." This weekly video series presents various forestry topics to landowners across the state. In this episode, Bill and Andrew spoke on water quality and best management practices for forestry.

## Public Information

- ◆ Michelle Stoll (public information director) participated in a Healthy Trees Healthy Lives (HTHL) communication planning session with other members of the Southern Group Communications Committee. Virginia is supporting the regional effort by providing stories and content for the HTHL website.
- ◆ Raina DeFonza (public information specialist) participated in Virginia's Forests editorial board meeting. Raina, along with Justin Barnes (deputy regional forester) represent VDOF on the editorial board.

## News Clips

- ◆ [The use of forest biomass for climate change mitigation: dispelling some misconceptions](#)
- ◆ [Clemson University Prescribed fire doesn't hinder forests from producing clean water](#)
- ◆ [Undoing Injustice: Roanoke Electric Works to Empower Black Landowners](#)
- ◆ [Salt River Project funding groundbreaking NAU research into forest health, increasing diversity in STEM](#)
- ◆ [Woodland - Sustaining America's Family Forest](#)