



October 19, 2020

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Employee Spotlight

Congratulations Michael Downey - 2020 Young Forester Leadership!

- ◆ Congratulations to Michael Downey (area forester) for being named the Virginia Division Society of American Foresters (SAF) recipient of the 2020 Young Forester Leadership award. The Young Forester Leadership Award recognizes outstanding leadership by a forestry professional younger than 40 years of age whose actions have benefited the practice of forestry and SAF.

Employee News

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Kinner Ingram

- ◆ Congratulations to newlyweds Kinner Ingram (community forester) and Zoe Davis; they were married September 26.

Coming Up

Shredding Truck – November 4th

- ◆ As a reminder, a shredding truck will be at the HQ building on November 4. If you would like to have your records disposed of, please make sure that your RM3 forms are complete and approved by [Mary Weaver](#), and provide [Fernanda Crandol](#) with an estimate of the volume to be destroyed to help the shredding company accurately prepare.

News You Can Use

Science in Practice Webinars

- ◆ Southern Research Station has initiated a webinar series called 'Science in Practice', which is designed to help get relevant research information into the hands of practitioners. Below are some recent webinars. Stay tuned for more in 2021!
 - [Science in Practice Webinar - Fire and wildlife in the southern Appalachians](#)
October 16, 2020
 - [Science in Practice Webinar - Rx fire science: Departing from the status quo](#)
October 19, 2020
- ◆ [View past Science in Practice webinars here.](#)
- ◆ [View future Science in Practice webinars here.](#)

Last Week

State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell visited the Mountain Valley Work area. The day included a visit to Virginia Tech's McCormick Farm, where VDOF and Virginia Cooperative Extension have a long history of working together and establishing forestry demonstration sites. The most current project consists of laying out and preparing to complete a femelschlag on a 52-acre piece of mature mixed hardwoods. Rob also traveled to Millboro in Bath County to visit a riparian tree planting project that Clint Folks (area forester) coordinated using Joint Chiefs - Lower Cowpasture Grant funds.

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban & community forestry partnership coordinator), Kenny Midgett (forest technician) and Robbie Lewis (senior area forester) travelled to Tangier Island to meet with the town manager and mayor to select a site for a tree planting project. The project is being planned to enhance the filtering and evapo-transpiration capabilities of a riparian area by planting eastern red cedar, southern bayberry, and a few other salt tolerant tree/shrub species.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen (utilization & marketing specialist) traveled to Norfolk to meet Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forester), Steven Traynor (Norfolk City Arborist) and Ed Sontag (Norfolk Woodcraft Store Owner) to do on-site planning for a March 2021 Urban Wood Lunch & Learn Workshop. Ed, who once worked for Champion & Enviva, is a great supporter of Norfolk Arbor Days and the new urban wood program.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ Private consulting foresters provide invaluable service to Virginia's forest landowners through development of forest management plans, assistance with timber inventory and sales, and

implementations of forestry practices. On October 8, VDOF hosted the annual meeting with consulting foresters at Holiday Lake 4-H Center. In keeping with current guidelines, and thanks to planning leadership by Ed Zimmer (deputy state forester) and Dan Wilson (Chair, VA Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters), the meeting was held under the large outdoor picnic pavilion, with participants spaced well apart. Ed Zimmer and Rob Farrell shared VDOF updates, with specific emphasis on the Hardwood Management Initiative. Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist), Todd Groh (forest resource management coordinator), and Dean Cumbia (forest resource management director) provided program updates. Jerre Creighton (research program manager) led an afternoon field trip at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest focused on upland hardwood management that generated significant interaction and discussion. Special thanks go to Becky Woodson (program support technician) for her work with communication, registration, and for preparing an outstanding program booklet. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for collaboration and idea sharing.

Central Region

- ◆ Martha Warring (senior area forester) and Robbie Talbert (regional forester) instructed nine students in the Natural Resource Management class at Sweet Briar College regarding developing forest management objectives and recommendations. The students will use the information learned from this session to develop a management plan for parts of the campus forest.
- ◆ Don Giegerich (water quality specialist), Peter Eales (pine resource forester), Charlene Bardon (program support technician), Kathy Albertson (program support technician), Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer), J.D. Baker (regional mechanic), Chad Stover (regional fire specialist), Justin Barnes (deputy regional forester) and Robbie Talbert participated in a river cleanup and education day sponsored by the Rivanna Conservation Alliance (RCA). The cleanup featured a float down the Rivanna River in Charlottesville and included a presentation by Lisa Wittenborn, executive director of the RCA, regarding the conservation issues related to the Rivanna River watershed. The day concluded with a presentation by Alexandria Searls of the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center regarding the historical significance of the river.

Western Region

- ◆ William Neff (forest technician), assisted the Virginia State Police, Lee County Sheriff's Office and Lee County Fire and Rescue with a recent search and rescue operation. An autistic child wandered off in the Beech Grove area of Lee County. The search lasted into the night but was called off around 1:00 AM due to the inclement weather. William and the state police officers, however, continued the search and located the child around 5:00 AM.
- ◆ Chris Thomsen (regional forester) provided a Fall Fire Season interview to WDBJ7, Roanoke's CBS affiliate. See link: <https://www.wdbj7.com/2020/10/09/start-of-fall-fire-season-prompts-landowners-to-take-extra-steps-to-protect-homes/>
- ◆ Walker Wolff (area forester) and Patti Nylander (senior area forester) held a Tree ID class for the Headwaters Master Naturalist Chapter. The group was divided in half to keep the number of people small and all participants wore masks during the walk. The attendees learned strategies to identify 15 different native trees.
- ◆ Grayson Coleman (forest technician) was in the vicinity of a call for an unresponsive patient in Bath County and provided initial CPR until members of Hot Springs Rescue Squad arrived.
- ◆ Cole Young (forest technician) traveled to New Kent with the Augusta transport to pick up the backhoe and drove it back to the Augusta Forestry Center to be used to help maintain the dry hydrant that is located in the pond at the nursery.

Public Information

- ◆ VDOF's Facebook post about the venomous puss caterpillar received significant national media attention, finding a place on Apple's list of trending news items and coverage in major outlets such as the Washington Post (see below: news clips).
- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator) provided an interview and content for a recently published article on fall color to Southside Electric Cooperative's *Cooperative Living* magazine, which reaches 55,000 homes in an 18-county area.
- ◆ Page Hutchinson (Project Learning Tree [PLT] coordinator) was asked by Anne Petersen from Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to do a presentation for science coordinators and supervisors from around the state on October 7 at their weekly "Coffee Talks". Page presented environmental education resources for science at home and virtual learning. She also focused on how to use the newly created Environmental Literacy Plan template for scaffolding outdoor investigations from grades K through 12.
- ◆ On October 8 and 9, the students in the Ecology classes at Louisa High School presented to Page Hutchinson their summaries and conclusions on the *Monitoring the Forest Health* investigations done throughout the month of September. These presentations were all done by Zoom video conferencing and were the first presentations of this sort that students had ever done. Page was asked to complete a grading rubric for each presentation and to also write a summary of what they did well and what could use some fine tuning.
- ◆ On October 8 Page Hutchinson and Anne Mannarino, educator and PLT facilitator, began a virtual workshop on *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood*. During the video call the educators were introduced to the Guide and participated in some of the activities virtually. It was a fun and crazy time. The educators will now do an online portion on their own which will be followed up with a final video call to reflect and talk about adaptations for virtual learning.
- ◆ On October 14 Page Hutchinson began a virtual workshop for *GreenSchools Investigations* for Daniel Morgan Intermediate School teachers. The teachers were introduced to the GreenSchools program and the benefits of becoming a PLT certified GreenSchool. Page explained the necessary steps in becoming a certified GreenSchool. The teachers will now complete an online portion and there will be a follow up video call in a few weeks.

Field Notes

- ◆ Bridges for Water Quality by Chris Thomsen, VDOF Western Regional Forester
<http://myvaforest.org/2020/10/06/bridges-for-water-quality/>
- ◆ Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns by Ellen Powell, Conservation Education Coordinator
<http://myvaforest.org/2020/10/02/mighty-oaks-from-little-acorns/>

News Clips

- ◆ [Hairy caterpillar, which packs a sting, spotted in Virginia, officials say](#), Washington Post – 10/10/20
- ◆ [Virginia residents warned to stay away from hairy, venomous caterpillars](#), CBS News – 10/9/20
- ◆ [Officials Issue Warning After Hairy, Venomous Caterpillar Is Spotted Multiple Times in Virginia](#), People – 10/9/20
- ◆ [Rocky Mount foresters return from battling wildfires out west](#), WBDJ7 – 10/15/20