



September 27, 2021

Contents

Employee News	1
Congratulations Kinner Ingram!	1
Welcome to VDOF	2
Project Updates	2
Cardinal Human Capital Management (HCM)	2
Website	3
Intranet	3
News You Can Use	3
Accomplishment Code Updates Announcement	3
Did you Know?	3
What's on the Intranet	3
New Publications Published on Website	3
Last Week	4
State Forester	4
Fire Emergency and Response	4
Forestland Conservation	4
State Forest.....	4
Forestland Resource Management	5
Central Region	5
Eastern Region	5
Western Region	6
News Clips.....	6

Employee News

Congratulations Kinner Ingram!

- ◆ Kinner Ingram has accepted a lateral transfer to the area forester position in the Rappahannock Work Area. Kinner has served as our urban and community forestry specialist in the Potomac Work Area over the past three years, and we are excited to use his expertise in the Rappahannock Work Area. Kinner has a B.S. in Conservation and Recreation Management with minors in Forestry and Urban Forestry from Virginia Tech. Prior to coming to work with the VDOF, Kinner worked as a Park Ranger at the Chippokes Plantation State Park in Surry County and as a Chief Ranger at Natural Bridge State Park in Rockbridge County. He will begin his new role with the VDOF on September 27.

Welcome to VDOF

- ◆ We would like to welcome Russell Schmidt to VDOF as a forest technician in the Heartland work area. Russell, who is a native of Charlotte County, recently transferred from West Virginia University during the COVID-19 pandemic to complete his degree virtually with Oregon State University with a B.S in Natural Resources with a Wildland Fire Ecology specialization. He has a plethora of experience with various equipment and most recently has been working for the Department of Conservation and Recreation as a Maintenance Ranger at Twin Lakes State Park in Prince Edward County. Russell will begin work with the VDOF on September 27.
- ◆ We would like to welcome Connor Goolsby to VDOF as a natural resource specialist in the Shenandoah work area. Connor has a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Virginia Tech and has worked with the Department of Conservation and Recreation as a Natural Resource Assistant in Southwest Virginia over the past two years where he implemented many forestry and natural resource projects including prescribed burns, invasive species control, thinnings, and other intermediate stand treatments. He already has his commercial pesticide applicator's license, his CDL, is qualified as a Type 2 firefighter, and has participated in several prescribed burns and wildfires over the past couple of years. Connor's first day with the VDOF will be September 27.
- ◆ VDOF IT team is excited to announce hiring of Drew Howell for the newly created IT helpdesk position. Drew will primarily support agency technologies and provide first tier technical support to agency staff with hardware/software issues. Drew will serve as the first point of contact for agency staff seeking technical assistance over the phone or email. He will work with users and VITA to create VCCC tickets and escalate any unresolved issues to VITA helpdesk. Drew comes from Costco where he provided technical assistance to staff. He possesses a degree in biology and certificate in information systems. Drew will be starting on September 27. You can find him in the corner office in the IT area.
- ◆ Cory Swift joins the Public Information Office as the public information specialist. Cory graduated from VCU with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications with an emphasis on advertising. He is an avid birder, outdoor enthusiast, strategist and storyteller. Cory brings skills in social media campaign management, photography and video production to his new role. It is his curiosity "about everything from TikTok trends to quasars," however, that promises to make Cory a valuable member of Public Information team and the VDOF family. Cory's first day is September 27.

Project Updates

Cardinal Human Capital Management (HCM)

- ◆ The countdown to Cardinal Human Resources & Payroll has begun, and you will soon be invited to attend training on the new system. All employees will be required to participate in web-based training through either the Commonwealth of Virginia Learning Center (COVLC) or Cardinal Learning sites. Topics will include accessing and navigating Cardinal, entering time and requesting leave, and updating personal information through self-service. This training is expected to be available in November.
- ◆ Additional training for supervisors and support staff will be provided by virtual instructor-led sessions which will cover entering timesheets on behalf of someone else ("timekeepers"), approving timesheets, and running reports. This training is expected to be available in January 2022.
- ◆ As always, if you have questions, feel free to reach out to anyone on the project team: John Colligan (chief of administration), Faye Difazio (budget officer), Pam Gibson (accountant senior), Amanda Jones (fiscal technician), Tammi Oliva (human resources/benefits specialist), Parik Patel (information technology manager) and Josh Shepko (database administrator).

Website

- ◆ Information added about laurel wilt disease. <https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/forest-health/insects-and-diseases/laurel-wilt/>
- ◆ Information added about acorn collection. <https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-management-health/seedling-nurseries/acorn-collection/>

Intranet

- ◆ Forms, policy and procedures, and other templates and materials are frequently updated on the Intranet site so this is the source to retrieve these materials to ensure you are using the most current files.

News You Can Use

Accomplishment Code Updates Announcement

- ◆ On October 1, accomplishment code updates will go into effect in IFRIS. Please see the attached list of accomplishments, as they will appear in IFRIS on October 1. This list is also available to download from IFRIS, by clicking on the **IFRIS Help Updates** link located in the upper right corner of IFRIS. Click on the **Accomplishment List** link at the bottom of the IFRIS Help and Updates page to download the list.
 - Please note, some accomplishments have changed locations, from non-mapped to mapped accomplishments. The accomplishment list spreadsheet indicates where the accomplishment code can be entered, whether it be under My Accomplishments, or on a Tract, Stand, Line, or Point. The spreadsheet also contains a list of all accomplishment attributes, and a list of retired accomplishments.
 - There are special instructions for accomplishments that apply to current RT Cost Share Project Prescriptions (FY2022RT). Please see the accomplishment list spreadsheet for instructions on entering the following accomplishments: Burn - Site Prep, Release, Site Prep – Chemical, Site Prep – Mechanical, Tree Planting – Rural.
- ◆ The accomplishment code updates have been applied to the IFRIS Test environment (https://www.ifristest.dof.virginia.gov/IFRIS2015_Training/Login.aspx) as they will appear on October 1. You are welcome to log into the IFRIS Test environment and test the new codes. Please send any questions or feedback to ifrishelp@dof.virginia.gov.

Did you Know?

What's on the Intranet

- ◆ The Branch weekly newsletters are posted on the Intranet <https://dof.virginia.gov/employee-access/the-branch-employee-newsletter/>
- ◆ Leadership Roundtable Minutes are posted on the Intranet <https://dof.virginia.gov/employee-access/leadership-roundtable/>

New Publications Published on Website

- ◆ 2021-2022 Seedling Price Guide https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/Seedling-Price-Guide_pub.pdf
- ◆ Forestry Topic information sheet: Ailanthus Control Methods https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/FT0055_Ailanthus-Control-Methods_pub.pdf

- ◆ Forestry Topic information sheet: Laurel Wilt Disease https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/FT0056_Laurel-Wilt-Disease_pub.pdf

Last Week

State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell joined Secretary of Agricultural and Forestry Bettina Ring for the Virginia Forest Products Association (VFPA) annual meeting. Secretary Ring announced the newly appointed Board of Forestry members and Rob introduced VDOF's new Utilization and Marketing Program Manager, Sabina Dhungana. Assistant State Forester Terry Lasher also attended. Rob presented the VFPA with an appreciation for their support of the Reforestation of Timber lands program on the program's 50th anniversary.

Fire Emergency and Response

- ◆ VDOF agency personnel have provided emergency response assistance across the nation. Deployments are as follows:
 - Single Resource deployments = 47 assignments
 - Total Interagency Hand crews and Crew Modules = 8
 - Crewmembers = 40
 - Total full-time and part-time deployments = 87
 - The number of states receiving assistance from our agency personnel is 17 and include: WA, CA, OR, ID, MI, MN, WI, CO, MT, WY, UT, AZ, NM, SD, NC, RI (COVID-19 support), IL (COVID-19 support)
- ◆ Many of our personnel have had opportunities for working on task books while providing this assistance. Our crewmember participation is exactly 10 times higher than our rate during the 2020 season and may increase before the season closes. Activity is expected to remain elevated well into October. Thank you for your continued support for the program!

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Terry Lasher participated in the Watershed Implementation Task #14 Task Force meeting. Terry presented information to sister agencies about VDOF's programs that could assist farmers with management practices to enhance cross agency collaboration and improve the Chesapeake Bay.
- ◆ Terry also represented the VDOF at the quarterly Coastal Zone Management Team (CZM) meeting. The meeting focused on an update on Lower Chickahominy 2016-2020 Section 309 Strategy, CZM/Department Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Division FY 2020 Section 309 Project of Special Merit on Bay Act Regulation Amendments, and the new Tidal Wetlands Guidelines.

State Forest

- ◆ Invasive species control work was conducted on the Matthews State Forest. Spot treatment of autumn olive and oriental bittersweet across multiple stands 20+ acres.
- ◆ Mike Womack (forest management specialist) delivered payment to the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors from revenues generated on the Appomattox Buckingham State Forest in Fiscal Year 2021.
- ◆ Jack Kauffman (forest management specialist) led the "woods in your backyard" workshop with Virginia Tech Extension agent Adam Downing and Department Wildlife Resources (DWR) Wildlife Biologist Dave Kocka.

- ◆ Kirby Woolfolk (forest management specialist) delivered payment and a presentation about the Prince Edward - Gallion State Forest and other information for Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors for revenues generated in Fiscal Year 2021 from the State Forest.

Forestland Resource Management

- ◆ Dean Cumbia (director of forest resource management and Alex Hernandez (area forester) lead a walk with a group of people that are working to start a Virginia Master Naturalist Chapter in Southside Virginia. The walk started at the Owens Creek parking area of the Tobacco Heritage Trail near Brodnax. The VDOF was one of the founding agencies for the Master Naturalist chapter <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>, and several VDOF staff are chapter sponsors. The Master Naturalists receive 40 hours of training in a variety of natural resources subjects as educators, citizen scientists, stewards helping Virginians conserve and manage natural resources, public lands and are active in volunteering. The topic for the walk was the importance of forests to Southside Virginia, and how trees and the resource are very resilient. (Pictured)



Central Region

- ◆ Jordan Herring (senior area forester) joined Cooperative Extension and the DWR to lead a “woods in your backyard” field day for private landowners. The field day trained participants on invasive species ID and control, tree ID, thinning/crop tree management, wildlife habitat improvement, and lawn conversion to natural area. This workshop benefitted landowners who are looking to manage their properties to create diverse and healthy habitat for pollinators and wildlife.
- ◆ Drew Arnn (senior area forester) participated in the 2021 Pittsylvania County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Ag Day event at Heritage Academy School. Eighty students from preschool through 8th grade rotated through stations to learn about different aspects of agriculture. Students learned how to be successful tree farmers and the benefits of the products that grow on a tree farm.
- ◆ David Powell (senior area forester) led the forest succession and history of Ivy Creek Natural Area's lands for the 2021 Charlottesville Tree Stewards on Saturday. Approximately 21 individuals attended to explore the lands in Ivy Creek.

Eastern Region

- ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forestry specialist) spoke with The Friends of the Indian River. Meghan focused on management of the urban forest and the environmental services that our community forests provide. Meghan also shared with the audience of around a dozen, the services that the Virginia Department of Forestry can provide for community members and landowners.
- ◆ Jesse Bander (area forester) attended a SHARP logger update class held in King & Queen County. As one of the Hardwood Initiative team members, Jesse provided the approximate 30 loggers and foresters in attendance with an update on the Virginia Hardwood Initiative including sharing the goals and strategies of the program, management activities that will be used, and an overview of the hardwood assessment tool.

- ◆ The Blackwater staff led by John Rose (forest technician) spent Thursday through Sunday spreading the word of good forest management and fire prevention at the 2021 Isle of Wight County Fair. Stephen Jasenak (area forester) and Meghan Mulroy-Goldman drew the best day of the fair, Friday morning, when all first and second grade students were bused to the fairgrounds. The students along with their adult caregivers were able to meet with



Smokey and have their picture taken. The inflatable Smokey was a big hit when the real Smokey was not available for photos. Evan Richardson (area forester) and Kendall Topping (community forestry specialist), Scott Bachman (senior area forester), and John Rose covered the other hours. Saturday saw picture perfect weather for fairgoers with nearly 16,000 folks passing through the agriculture displays. Over the course of the four-day event close to 30,000 citizens passed through the gates of the fairgrounds. (pictured)

Western Region

- ◆ Headwaters Area personnel hosted a dozer and transport basic task book training and sign-off event for full-time and part-time VDOF staff. Rocky Wood (forest technician) and Greg Estoll (senior area forester) supervised and evaluated the event.

News Clips

- ◆ [The Nature Conservancy, Dominion Energy Collaborate on Solar Development](#)
- ◆ [Former Apple design director launches mass-timber housing company "to bring productisation to the built environment"](#)
- ◆ [Trees To Capture Carbon \(And Cash\) In Nation's First Project On State Forest Land](#)
- ◆ [Forestry and Wildlife Bus Tour](#)
- ◆ [BLAST FROM THE PAST: Week of Sept. 15](#) (second paragraph "10 Years Ago 2011")
- ◆ [Loggers, landscapers face deadly danger felling trees in forests and urban areas](#)
- ◆ [Fall begins next week. Are you ready?](#)
- ◆ [If you see this invasive pest, kill it on the spot](#)
- ◆ [Landowners encouraged to contribute acorns for 2023 hardwood seedling crop](#)