

Mary Weaver

From: Farrell, Robert <rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov> on behalf of Farrell, Robert
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:31 PM
To: DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject: The Branch
Attachments: 2021-10-18 Branch.pdf

Hello everyone;

- Please make sure you read the Branch this week, because -
- Your pants may have been discontinued. Equally as important,
- I counted 27 different groups that VDOF folks interacted with in just one week. That is an amazing amount of outreach and impact happening. Thanks everyone for making the effort to make those events possible. And a special -
- Thanks to the Eastern Region for hosting this year's New Employee Orientation last week. We have a lot of new and relatively new co-workers so it was good to give them a chance to spend some time together. Speaking of a lot,
- These new employees make up about a fifth of our workforce, and our first -
- Full week of Fall fire season is looking sunny, breezy, and dry. We need all responders to work together to make sure that the newer folks have their vehicles, gear, and communications in order so they can respond safely and effectively. And lastly,
- While we have been working very hard on the hardwood initiative, I have not done a good job of sharing info with all of you. We are going to start doing better starting now. Really on November 3rd, when -
- Anyone interested in learning about the Hardwood Forest Habitat Initiative is invited to join me for a webinar at 8:30 in the morning. It will be about 45 minutes and I will give nearly the same presentation that I did at the recent VFA Forestry Summit covering the history of our oak-dominated forests, current conditions and challenges, and how we hope to address those issues here in Virginia. If this works,
- We will see about doing more of these morning webinars on relevant topics that people can participate in as they choose. We will try and record and make them available as well, if the files aren't too large. With that,
- Be safe and make it a good week.

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