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Employee News

Welcome to VDOF

- ◆ The Seedling nursery team would like to welcome our newest member! Timothy (“Turtle”) Howdyshell joined VDOF on October 10 as our new Nursery Technician at Augusta Forestry Center (AFC). Originally from New Hope, VA, Turtle has been working for VDOF as a P-14 since 2008. Turtle left VDOF for a short period, but then realized AFC was home. Turtle is happy to be continuing to work for VDOF as a full time employee.
- ◆ We're pleased to welcome Lindsey Long to the VDOF as the Community Forestry Specialist in the Potomac Work Area. Lindsey, who is a native of Loudoun County, has a B.S. in Water: Resource, Policy, and Management from Virginia Tech as well as a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from Virginia Tech. She has 12 months of experience as an undergraduate research technician and served as an Ambassador for Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment. Her first day with the VDOF will be October 25.

Uniform Pants Discontinued

- ◆ The B136-Carrhart double-front pants have been discontinued by Carrhart in the Moss color. Anyone with an open order for these pants should receive an email from Howard Uniform with an option to substitute the B11-Washed Duck Work Dungarees or cancel item. If you have any questions or concerns contact [Mary Weaver](#) or your uniform representative.
 - [Katlin DeWitt](#) – Headquarters
 - [Lisa Deaton](#) – Eastern Region
 - [Chad Stover](#) – Central Region
 - [Cole Young](#) – Western Region

Project Updates

Policy and Procedures

- ◆ [Policy and Procedure 7-6 State-Owned Land Program](#) has been updated to account for a Memorandum of Understanding between VDOF and the Department of General Services (DGS), and to establish guidelines for the program. Other minor edits reflect some changes desired by the Regional Foresters along with some updates to the overall program. Questions concerning the updated Policies and Procedures should be directed to [Ed Stoots](#) (state lands coordinator).

Urban Wood Project Update

- ◆ The Virginia Urban Wood Project also co-sponsored an outdoor, in-person, “lunch and learn” business development workshop at the Norfolk Woodcraft Store on Thursday, October 7. The workshop was well attended by arborists, municipality staff, sawmillers and wood crafters in the Norfolk/Tidewater areas. Many thanks to Scott Bachman (senior area forester), Kendall Topping and Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forestry specialists) for assisting with this event. Other event partners included the City of Norfolk, Garrity Custom Sawmilling (Chesapeake), RST Timberworks (Gloucester) and the Woodcraft Store of Norfolk, which hosted the event and provided lunch for everyone.
- ◆ The VA Urban Wood Project also assisted Deya Ramsden (Middle James River forest watershed coordinator) with the sourcing of 100 eastern red cedar posts for projects in the Middle James River Watershed. Whole Heart Timber of Culpeper specializes in cedar products and supplied the posts.

Last Week

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ The Utilization & Marketing Team continued work on Mass Timber seminar planning. Sabina Dhungana (utilization & marketing program manager) and Rachel Harris (utilization & marketing specialist) met with Matthew Hourigan, development associate at Hourigan Group, to discuss a potential tour of Apex Energy Plaza and a venue to host the Mass Timber seminar. Hourigan Group is willing to partner with the VDOF on the event and will be happy to host a tour to discuss the Apex Plaza mass timber project with interested seminar attendees.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen provided a virtual presentation on "Community Wood Utilization Across the South" to the 2021 Oklahoma Urban Wood Conference.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen coordinated the Urban Wood field tour for the 2021 Virginia Forestry Summit in Harrisonburg. Tour stops included lunch at the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum on the campus of James Madison University; a visit to the workshop of Rocktown Urban Wood; a site visit to Mashita Korean Restaurant, which is using urban wood installations for its expansion that are being installed by

KnochedVA; and a final stop at Brothers Craft Brewing, for a slabbing sawmill demonstration by Gochenour Sawmill Company and a tour of the tap room containing many urban wood products.

- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban & community [U&CF] partnership coordinator), Robbie Lewis (senior area forester), and Kenny Midgett, (forest technician) planted 150 trees on the Island of Tangier. Janet Muncy (integrated media specialist) and Cory Swift-Turner (public information specialist) documented the event with photos and video. Species planted included bayberry, live oak, and redcedar, due to their tolerance of salt. A local Boy Scout and 'C' Scout troop assisted in the planting. The town was very thankful for VDOFs efforts.
- ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester) provided a presentation for the Capital Region Land Conservancy's 2021 Conservation Games regarding ecosystem services. Terry's presentation was in conjunction with partner Christine Cadigan of the American Forest Foundation. Christine provided information about AFF's Family Forest Carbon Program and Terry provided information about Virginia's forest landowner demographics, forest types, water and air as ecosystem markets.

Fire and Emergency Response

- ◆ VDOF Honor Guard members attended the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial on October 3, held at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), in Emmitsburg, MD.



Guard members assisted in honoring firefighters who lost their lives over the past two years by participating in the Sea of Blue and flag presentation ceremonies that day. Pictured here are Honor Guard members Robbie Lewis (senior area forester), Zoe Sumrall, and Derek Keiser (water quality specialists), with the VDOF HG shield brick on one of the main walkways at the NETC.



Agency Lands

- ◆ Jerre Creighton (research program manager) and John Scrivani spent a day on Back Creek Mountain in Bath County looking for new wild American chestnuts. Seven previously unknown trees were located and mapped, and burs containing a total of 72 chestnuts were collected from four of them. The hope is to raise seedlings from those nuts to be added to our genetic base in the Lesesne State Forest American chestnut orchard.
- ◆ The loblolly pine cone collection is ongoing at New Kent. So far we have collected 960 bushels of Virginia's Best cones and 760 bushels of Elite. We estimate this year's crop to be between 2,500 - 3,000 bushels.

State Forest

- ◆ Various staff worked at Charlotte State Forest preparing for its dedication, with staff mowing, bush hogging, using boom ax, hauling in gravel, and installing signs and gates. They also cleaned up trash, including old sawmill pieces, tires, and an abandoned car, and moved the grader out towards the parking lot location for the dedication. Thanks go to Kirby Woolfolk (forest management specialist), Ian Morris (state forest technician), Willie Shumaker (trades technician) & Avond Randolph (lead worker).

- ◆ Staff working with the Department of Historic Resources discovered an archeological home site previously forgotten or lost on the Sandy Point State Forest.
- ◆ Staff hosted a tour at Sandy Point State Forest for the Rappahannock Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.
- ◆ The Turlington Tract acquisition to Big Woods State Forest has been completed and the deed recorded. This purchase from The Nature Conservancy adds approximately 200 acres to our Big Woods State Forest.

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ Ed Stoots (state lands coordinator) and Rich Reuse (area forester) met with Department of Veteran Services (DVS) personnel at their Amelia facility to assess the forested land present on the property. Dennis Gaston (forest management specialist) will be meeting DVS personnel on October 21st to assess the forestland present on their Suffolk property.
- ◆ Harvesting and Best Management Practices work was completed on the Department of Corrections Goochland Women's Center property. A good harvesting job and road construction was carried out by the buyer of the timber sale - Ontario Hardwood.

Public Information

- ◆ Cindy Frenzel (Project Learning Tree [PLT] coordinator), Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator), and Kathleen Ogilvy (area forester) participated in a PLT Steering Committee meeting to tie up some loose ends for the program, resulting from both the COVID period and the passing of former coordinator Page Hutchinson.

Central Region

- ◆ Jordan Herring (senior area forester) assisted Fairfax Park Authority with their annual prescribed burn refresher training. The Park Authority consists of 420 parks on more than 23,000 acres of land, and they complete a variety of meadow and understory burns every year. Jordan assisted the burn crew and gave advice on topics such as equipment, general safety, communications, previous successes/failures, and what to do if a spot fire occurs. The partnership with the Fairfax Park Authority is vital to getting more prescribed burning on the landscape and enhancing forest and wildlife habitat throughout Northern Virginia.
- ◆ The Central Region held their annual Regional Meeting in the Charlottesville area. This was the first time that the entire region was able to convene in over two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Despite the rainy weather, employees could choose from an activity that included a float down the Rivanna River hosted by the Rivanna Conservation Alliance, a tour of James Monroe's Highland where the VDOF has been involved with numerous forest management projects in the past, a guided walk through the Blue Ridge Tunnel in Nelson and Augusta Counties, or a woodcarving workshop hosted by a local woodworker. The focus of the meeting was to provide regional employees a chance to introduce themselves to new employees, get reacquainted with co-workers they haven't seen in a while, and to participate in an activity that allowed them to learn a little more about



the natural resources of Virginia while also having fun doing it. A total of 61 employees were in attendance. (pictured)

Eastern Region

- ◆ The Eastern Region hosted three Incident Management Team (IMT) training sessions this summer and planned it so that each training would build off the previous training. First, Warren Coburn, Stephen Jasenak (area foresters), Zach Dowling, Ken Sterner (senior area foresters) and John Hisghman (deputy regional forester) provided the instruction for an IMT Command and General Staff training. In this training Eastern Region IMT and IMT trainees learned the general duties of the Incident Command, Operations, Plans, Logistics, Safety, and Public Information positions, and how these positions would



interact with each other in an actual incident. The IMT and IMT trainees included Warren Coburn, Manij Upadhyay, Rich Reuse, Lisa Deaton, Kathleen Ogilvy (area foresters), John Rose (forest technician), Matt Coleman, Ken Sterner, Robbie Lewis (senior area foresters),



Jim Schroering (longleaf/southern pine beetle [SPB] prevention coordinator), Heather Tuck (regional fire specialist), Cindy Bronner and Lisa Burke (program support technicians).

- After the initial training the IMT and IMT trainees worked on an IMT Scenario in which the objective was to plan a Regional Dozer Training Day for the remaining regional personnel. After several monkey wrenches were thrown into the mix (intentionally) the IMT completed the Incident Action Plan (IAP) and the training day successfully. Thanks to all those who participated and to Chad Stover (regional fire specialist) for his input in getting this started. (photos attached)
- ◆ Dave Slack (area forester) presented at a Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat. Dave spoke to the 13 attendees about the importance of having a management plan, plan development, general forest management, and incentive programs.
- ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman attended Chesapeake's Arbor Day Celebration and presented Mayor Rick West with Chesapeake's first Growth Award. About 25 people were in attendance.
- ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman attended the Elizabeth River Watershed Action Team meeting at the Virginia Zoo. Meghan has been a member of the habitat subcommittee and has advocated for promoting tree canopy cover within the Elizabeth River Watershed. The habitat subcommittee and other subcommittees have been meeting regularly to assess challenges to the Elizabeth River and its watershed and suggest solutions to these challenges. This past meeting included reports from each of the groups on the actions they propose to be included in the final Watershed Action Plan.
- ◆ The Blackwater work unit U&CF staff is hosting an Urban Wood Workshop with Joe Lehnen in Norfolk. The workshop will bring together local arborists, and city staffers at the local Woodcraft Store. The owner of the store, Ed Sontag, a forester himself, has graciously arranged for us to use the parking area at the store to set up a portable sawmill to process a log supplied by the Norfolk City Arborist Steven Traylor.

- ◆ Scott Bachman and Kendall Topping participated in the Norfolk Arbor Day event over the weekend. Kendall presented the Arbor Day Award to the Vice Mayor of the City, Martin Thomas. An estimated 200+ folks attended the event, which included a Master Gardeners plant sale and tree giveaway as well as several information booths. The Department of Forestry table featured the Match the Tree game supplied by Ellen Powell. (pictured Vice Mayor Thomas matching the trees!)



News Clips

- ◆ [Science You Can Use \(in 5 minutes\)](#)
- ◆ [Seeing Our Future More Clearly: How One Peatland Study is Changing How We Think About Carbon](#)
- ◆ [Indigenous Fire Stewardship: Federal/Tribal Partnerships for Wildland Fire Research and Management](#)
- ◆ [Longleaf Pine Woodlands and Encroaching Species](#)
- ◆ [Wood fibers key to sustainable concrete, cement](#)
- ◆ [Enviva Forest Conservation Fund helps protect ancient wetlands](#)
- ◆ [Why Do Forests Matter for Birds?](#)
- ◆ [IKEA's not-so-secret weapon](#)
- ◆ [Why the US Navy Manages Its Own Private Forest](#)
- ◆ [Study looks at U.S. climate change mitigation related to forestry and agriculture](#)
- ◆ [Startup's drone swarms plant seeds in fire-ravaged forests](#)
- ◆ [Here's when fall foliage usually peaks in the DMV](#)
- ◆ [VA Fall Foliage: Expect 'Big Changes' In 2 Weeks, Foresters Say](#)
- ◆ [Native Seed Collection for Reforestation Projects](#)
- ◆ [Grown Here at Home: VDOF needs help collecting acorns, deadline approaching](#)
- ◆ [Video explainer: The best time to see leaves changing colors across Virginia](#)
- ◆ [15 Virginia Parks Where You Can Catch the Best Fall Foliage](#)
- ◆ [Virginia Department of Forestry now taking tree seedling orders](#)
- ◆ [Virginia mussel declared extinct, a 'warning sign' for state's rivers](#)
- ◆ [2021 Acorn Production Report: Pockets of Productivity](#)
- ◆ [Celebrating the 130 Year History of the Big Island, VA Paper Mill](#)
- ◆ [Invasive spotted lanternflies found in fourth West Virginia county](#)
- ◆ [Foliage season underway in Mid-Atlantic as colorful scenes blanket mountains](#)