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Employee News

Congratulations Warren Coburn!!

- ◆ The Eastern Region would like to congratulate Warren Coburn on his new position as Senior Area Forester for the Northern Neck Work Area. Warren brings 42.5 years of experience as a VDOF forester, as well as leadership roles on fire and emergency response assignments across Virginia and the United States. Warren has served as a forester to Albemarle, King & Queen, and Essex counties. Before entering state service, Warren received a degree from West Virginia University in Forest Resource Management. He began his new role on October 25.

Looking for Stories

Blog Post for Fall Fire Season

- ◆ Do you have an interesting fire-related story, anecdote, or even a cautionary tale from a previous year’s fire season? We’d like to compile your stories into a blog post for fall fire season. Individual stories don’t have to be long or perfect - we’re happy to edit. An accompanying picture is welcome, but not required. Please send your story to ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov by November 10.

Last Week

State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell participated in the National Association of State Foresters executive committee retreat. Rob serves on the executive committee as Chair of the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF).

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Lara Johnson (urban & community forestry [U&CF] program manager) and Molly O'Liddy (U&CF partnership coordinator) participated in the Roanoke Valley Urban Forest Council meeting. The Council is made up of neighboring municipalities in the Roanoke region who share and collaborate on projects related to urban forestry. Discussions included speakers and topics for the March Roanoke Tree Workshop, current projects and future collaborations.
- ◆ Lara Johnson, Molly O'Liddy and Eli Podyma (community forestry specialist) participated in a planning call with partners conducting the Jackson Ward planting next month. Fifty street trees will be planted in empty tree pits throughout the Richmond neighborhood with the help of community volunteers. The trees will be sourced from the Enrichmond Foundation, a non-profit in the city that has its own nursery operation, known as 'Treelab'.
- ◆ The Eastern Region participated in a quarterly meeting with the U&CF branch to discuss projects, collaborations and goals as it pertains to urban forestry within the agency. The U&CF team hopes to expand the frequency of these meetings as well as include other work areas as needs arise.
- ◆ Lara Johnson presented to the Crater Planning District Commission about financing and tracking urban tree planting projects.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ VDOF Forest Health staff treated 17 ash trees at demonstration sites at Holiday Lake (Appomattox), Garland Gray Forestry Center (Sussex), VDOF Headquarters, and property near Montpelier (Orange). These ash trees were treated with a soil drench, which should be applied annually in the fall. While this is not the most effective form of treatment, it is often the most accessible to landowners, so demonstration plots are comparing results of the soil drench treatment with other methods.
- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) gave a presentation at the Central Virginia Beginning Woodland Owners' Retreat on October 22 at the Holiday Lake 4H Center. The presentation was about invasive species, how they are introduced, a few key pests in Virginia, and how the VDOF forest health program can assist landowners. There were 18 landowners in attendance at this event.
- ◆ Katlin DeWitt met VDOF Capital work area staff Jesse Bander (area forester) and Alanna Ostrowski (forest technician) at North Anna Battlefield Park in Hanover County to look at two stands of hemlock trees that are infested with hemlock woolly adelgid. Management options were discussed, including possible treatment next spring.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Jerre Creighton (research program manager) attended the two-day annual US Contact Meeting of the Forest Productivity Cooperative at Holiday Lake 4H Center and hosted the field tour of research plots at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. Approximately 35 attendees representing universities and forest industries from across the Southeast visited VDOF studies looking at loblolly pine planting densities, competing vegetation control, thinning regimes and fertilizer strategies.

- ◆ Ed Stoots (state lands coordinator) Jerre Creighton and John Scrivani attended a meeting of the Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation and hosted a field trip to our chestnut breeding orchards at the Lesesne State Forest. VDOF is well represented in the chapter leadership; John is the incoming Chapter President, Ed is a continuing member and Jerre is a newly-elected member of the Board of Directors.
- ◆ Jim Schroering (longleaf/southern pine beetle [SPB] prevention coordinator) gave a presentation for the Sussex County Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Fall Forestry and Wildlife field tour.

State Forest

- ◆ Mike Womack (forest management specialist) gave a field tour for the Beginning Woodland Owners' Retreat on the Appomattox - Buckingham State Forest.
- ◆ Staff provided management history for the Paul State Forest and the State Forest System as a whole for an AP Environmental Science class field trip to the Paul State Forest.
- ◆ Staff met with architectural & engineering contractors to look at the Cumberland swinging bridge that crosses the Willis River. It was determined to close the bridge for public access due to the current condition of the bridge. Plans will be drafted to design a replacement bridge as soon as possible. The bridge is the only access for public recreation into approximately 600 acres of State Forest property.
- ◆ Jerre Creighton & Ed Stoots led a tour of the Lesesne State Forest Chestnut planting for Board Members of the Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation (ACF), 16 members of the public at large, and ACF staff interested in the trees planted at Lesesne for gene sequencing of selected trees. Both Jerre & Ed Stoots are Directors of the Virginia Chapter, and attended a Board of Directors meeting and a public general membership meeting held near Afton.

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ Staff examined the Department of Corrections (DOC) Coffeewood Correctional Center property to see how VDOF might prepare a timber harvest that would create additional grazing pasture for DOC.
- ◆ Staff visited the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) - Suffolk Cemetery property to assess the forested areas present. Staff have now visited three of the cemeteries located in Dublin, Amelia, and Suffolk, making a recommendation to DVS for each.
- ◆ Staff identified approximately 12 acres on the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services Geriatric Hospital in Nottoway County for planting containerized shortleaf pines. H&H Forest Management will be the contractor doing the planting sometime after November 8th.


Central Region

- ◆ Jordan Herring (senior area forester) led a workshop for residents of the town of Purcellville on landscape tree maintenance. He talked about right tree-right place, pruning, and how to correctly mulch trees in your backyard. This is the last of five presentations he has given for the town since they acquired a Virginia trees for clean water grant. The workshops have helped residents and town employees of Purcellville become educated on tree care.
- ◆ Bill Perry (forester specialist) and Ferro Bros. Felling worked together to host a demonstration area at the Amherst County Fair. The main event was a chainsaw race emceed by Derek Keiser (water quality specialist) and run by Bill and the Ferros. Amherst County Future Farmers of America (FFA) students were the time keepers. Other demonstrations were tree climbing, bow saw, and a portable sawmill. Boards made from American sycamore, black cherry, and black walnut were sawn and sold for donations to Amherst FFA. The Virginia Department of Forestry dozer and engine were also on display

with an information table and giveaways for the children. Gary Hall-Matson (forest technician) and Martha Warring (senior area forester) were also on hand to help out.

- ◆ Matt Wolanski (senior area forester) led a guided walk at Blandy Farm, Virginia's State Arboretum. The talk was centered around basic principles of forest ecology, non-native and invasive plant pressure, and general forest management strategies, in an effort to educate the general public about the multiple benefits of trees and forests.
- ◆ Connor Goolsby, Cain Harbison (area foresters), and Ashley Mock (bay watershed specialist) assisted the Augusta Forestry Center in sowing various seeds for next year's crop of seedlings.
- ◆ Zach Arnold (area forester) met with students enrolled in a James Madison University Geography Field Methods course at the Paul State Forest. He talked to them about a variety of topics, including what a forester does, forest management that has been done at the Paul State Forest, and the use of drones in the VDOF.

Eastern Region

- ◆ Over the last year, Kendall Topping (community forestry specialist) has been working with partners from the City of Franklin, International Paper, and the Arbor Day Foundation to initiate the first phase of the River Walk Park at the gateway to the City of Franklin. Friday, with the assistance of the partners, along with Delegate Emily Brewer and Delegate Roslyn Tyler, Kendall and Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forestry specialist), broke ground on the initial plantings. Thirty larger nursery stock trees were planted during this Arbor Day celebration as a first step in the larger project. Evan Richardson (area forester) and Scott Bachman (senior area forester), along with volunteers from International Paper in Franklin, completed the tree planting. (pictured)
- The River Walk Park is planned to eventually include a walking path along the Blackwater River, connecting the park to the city's Barrett's Landing Park farther down river. Kendall was instrumental in selecting appropriate trees for the project and helping to steer the planning of this first phase of the greenway.
- ◆ The Waverly Work Area and Virginia Cooperative Extension partnered to bring a Fall Forestry and Wildlife field tour to Sussex County last week, with 13 forest landowners participating. The tour started at Garland Gray Nursery, where attendees learned about VDOF's containerized longleaf seedlings and genetically improved loblolly seedlings. (Special thanks to Jim Schroering and Josh Bennicoff (nursery manager for their assistance.) The tour also included stops at Big Wood State Forest, where attendees learned about Virginia's Hardwood Initiative. Travis Tindell (area forester) and Brian Lacey (regional resource specialist) provided insight into the new program. The group also visited an active logging job at Big Woods State Forest. (Special thanks to Dennis Gaston (state forest forester) for making this happen.) Finally, Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer) demonstrated his newest drone and showed how it is used to assist in prescribed burning.

Public Information

- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator) and Cindy Frenzel (project learning tree [PLT] coordinator) attended and assisted with transportation for Virginia Tech's Fall Forestry and Wildlife field tour in Rockbridge and Botetourt counties.

- ◆ In August, Fred Abbey, a volunteer at the USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir, again reached out to Jennifer Leach (public information program coordinator) requesting copies of VDOF's *Common Native Trees of Virginia* book for their fall festival on October 9th. VDOF donated 100 *Common Native Trees of Virginia* books, children's Forest Facts sheets and coloring books to the Center. Jennifer had worked with Fred in April 2021 to donate 100 *Common Native Trees of Virginia* books to the organization for their spring festival.
 - The Center hosts these two festivals that typically bring in approximately 2,000 people. The property has four acres planted mostly with native trees. Fred and the volunteers use the books and other materials to engage families and kids in activities such as an on-site tree/shrub identification contest. Fred and the volunteers who work with him are certified Virginia Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners and were trained by VDOF's own Jim McGlone in the Fairfax Tree Steward Program. (pictured)
 - The USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir is the largest USO in the world and is dedicated to serving our nation's wounded, ill and injured troops, their families and caregivers, as well as active-duty military and their families. VDOF is proud to support these efforts!



News Clips

- ◆ [Scientists work to catch up with Va.'s endangered and threatened species before it's too late](#)
- ◆ [Enviva Applauds International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook Report 2021](#)
- ◆ [Spotted Lanternfly a](#)
- ◆ [How sustainable fiber procurement will affect future forests](#)
- ◆ [Urging learning about wildfire prevention during Fall Fire Season](#)
- ◆ [After a late start, leaves beginning to change](#)
- ◆ [LET'S GROW, AMERICA!](#)
- ◆ [Celebrating the Circular Economy: National Forest Products Week 2021](#)
- ◆ [Columbia Pulp Mill Increases production of Eco-Friendly Fiber, Columbia Gold](#)
- ◆ [Helping Families Keep & Sustain Land](#)
- ◆ [Virginia Department of Forestry offers wildfire season safety tips](#)
- ◆ [Asian Longhorned Beetle Officially Found in Georgia](#)
- ◆ [Governor Northam tours Virginia Tech's Brooks Forest Products Center](#)
- ◆ [Northam applauds products center at Virginia Tech](#)
- ◆ [Virginia Department of Forestry gives advice on fall fire season](#)