

## Mary Weaver

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**From:** Farrell, Robert <rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov> on behalf of Farrell, Robert  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 3:00 PM  
**To:** DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES  
**Subject:** The Branch  
**Attachments:** 2021-11-08 Branch.pdf

Good afternoon everyone;

For me, last week had its ups and downs. My apologies to everyone that tried to participate in the hardwood initiative webinar. I was a little frustrated by the technological glitches, then more than a little, then a lot. But after that - Dean Cumbia, Joe Rossetti and I went to Rocky Mount to visit the Bald Knob and Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserves with Kevin Keith, Daniel Cloeter, and Bill Sweeney. We looked at potential hardwood restoration projects utilizing MVP mitigation funds. We even got to see an area with successful white oak regeneration, so we know that it's possible.

On Thursday morning it was heartwarming to see so many VDOF employees, past and present, turn out for the memorial mass for Joe Schaefer. Some of Joe's family members asked to come see where he worked so Ed Zimmer arranged for them to visit with Lora Newlin and Keith Brown the next day.

On Thursday afternoon, we celebrated the opening of our new Charlotte State Forest. There was a good crowd, considering we were in a field in rural Charlotte County. Governor Northam and Secretary Ring joined us as well as local, state, and federal partners. Thanks to everyone from the state lands and public information teams that made that event a success.

I would especially like to thank our Honor Guard members for representing the agency at both events. Derek Keiser, Robbie Lewis, Jeremy Falkenau, and Zoe Sumrall made sure that the agency was represented with pride.

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