



**January 24, 2022**

**Contents**

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**News You Can Use** ..... 1

    Camp Woods and Wildlife Returns! ..... 1

**Last Week**..... 2

    Forestland Conservation..... 2

    Forest Resource Management ..... 2

    State Forest..... 2

    State-Owned Lands..... 2

    Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

    News Clips..... 3

**News You Can Use**

***Camp Woods and Wildlife Returns!***

- ◆ After a 2-year COVID hiatus, Camp Woods and Wildlife returns this year! We are streamlining the application process to eliminate a step, but a nominator is still required to complete one section and to submit the application. In addition, we have adjusted the schedule so that camp ends late Friday afternoon, both to save money and to make the week a little easier on staff.
- ◆ Thanks to everyone who has indicated interest in being on our camp staff! We have room for more, so please join us for a fun week (with your supervisor’s approval, of course.) You can find the staff application in the employee area, <https://dof.virginia.gov/employee-access/employee-forms/>, form 13.06. Please return your application to [Ellen Powell](#) by Feb. 25.
- ◆ Following is a promotional blurb you can email to teachers (generally grades 7-10) in your locality. Local contacts are our BEST source of campers.
  - Do you know a student who loves to learn outdoors? Applications are now open for **Camp Woods & Wildlife**, to be held June 20-24 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox. This residential, field-based camp is ideal for students interested in forestry, wildlife, or other natural resources. All students selected to attend receive a substantial scholarship that covers most of the camp’s cost.
  - Camp is open to anyone aged 13 to 16 (as of June 20) who has not attended before. Interested students may apply through April 15. See <https://dof.virginia.gov/education-and-recreation/youth-education/camp-woods-wildlife/> for information. (Please note that the application form includes a nomination from a non-related adult, and the form must be submitted by the nominator.)
  - Questions? Contact Ellen Powell – [ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov), 434-987-0475.

## Last Week

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### Forestland Conservation

- ◆ The Forestland Conservation Program successfully established open-space easements on two properties in December of 2021. **The Little Back Creek easement in Bath County** permanently conserves 225 acres of working forests and contains frontage on nearly 9,000 feet of Little Back Creek and other tributaries, all of which are protected by existing vegetated and forested buffers. The property supports the habitat for brook trout in Little Back Creek, a wild trout stream, and the Audubon Society's Alleghany Highlands Important Bird Area includes the property. It also contributes to the scenic views enjoyed by the public from the George Washington National Forest. **The Purcell easement in Brunswick County** permanently conserves approximately 456 acres of working forests, 287 acres of which (63%) are considered very high or outstanding in conservation value. This property contains nearly 15,000 feet of frontages on the Meherrin River, Meadow Branch, and other tributaries, all of which are protected by existing vegetated and forested buffers. The property supports the occurrence of the Atlantic pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*), a state-listed threatened freshwater mussel, and also contributes to the scenic views enjoyed by the public from Meherrin River, a designated Scenic River. Thanks to the generous landowners, Amanda Scheps (forest conservationist specialist), who led VDOF's efforts to close these easements, many other VDOF staff, and our partner agencies for their efforts to conserve these valuable properties for the benefit of biodiversity, water quality, and the residents of the Commonwealth.
- ◆ Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring and Assistant State Forester Terry Lasher attended an AFID grant presentation/ceremony at Phoenix Hardwoods in Floyd, Virginia. Phoenix Hardwoods received the grant to support expansion of their retail and manufacturing facilities. Phoenix Hardwoods built its reputation through high-quality, artisan-crafted hardwood furniture and home goods and they source their hardwoods locally. <https://www.phoenix-hardwoods.com/>

### Forest Resource Management

- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) and Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) attended the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Biological Control Working Group virtual annual meeting. Researchers, graduate students, and federal and state forest health staff attend this meeting to learn the most up-to-date information about biological control of the hemlock woolly adelgid. VDOF Forest Health staff hopes to combine biocontrol and chemical treatment to protect hemlock stands on State Lands.
- ◆ On January 10, VDOF Forest Management and Regional staff conducted a quarterly conference call with the Black Family Land Trust. Topics included plans for the year regarding outreach and engagement of minority landowners in active forest management and land retention.

### State Forest

- ◆ Four bids were received for the Cumberland State Forest's first timber sale of calendar year 2022. The sale covers approximately 27 acres of timber to be harvested then reforested.

### State-Owned Lands

- ◆ Drafted forest management plans for 4 Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) properties in eastern Virginia were sent to VDOT for final review. Each of the plans recommended timber harvesting.

## ***News Clips***

- ◆ [Governor Northam Announces Historic Land Acquisition for Chickahominy Tribe](#)
- ◆ [THE IMPORTED PINES THAT SPREAD FIRE](#)
- ◆ [Virginia Department of Forestry, Ken Burns raise concerns over proposal for new data centers](#)
- ◆ [Floyd County manufacturer expanding, adding jobs](#)
- ◆ [SFI Names Bettina Ring New Chief Sustainability and Diversity Officer](#)
- ◆ [Urging care if opting to burn storm debris](#)
- ◆ [IKEA buys land damaged by hurricane in Florida to plant forests](#)
- ◆ [Sowing What You Reap: Replanting After a Timber Harvest](#)
- ◆ [When the trees where these ants live were damaged, they made some DIY home repairs](#)