



April 18, 2022

Upcoming Events

[Southeast Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable \(SEVA\) – April 28](#)

- ◆ Focus on trees and storms.

[Camp Woods & Wildlife NEW STAFF Training – May 3 or 11](#)

[Hardwood Forester 2022 Class Training – May 18 – 20](#)

[Board of Forestry Meeting – May 20 \(New\)](#)

[2022 Virginia Interagency Wildland Fire Academy – May 24 – 28](#)

[2022 Mid-Atlantic Compact Fire Academy – June 6 – 10](#)

[Forest Health Workshop – Charlottesville – June 8](#)

[Forest Health Workshop – Galax – June 9](#)

[VDOF Baseball Night in Richmond – June 10 \(New\)](#)

[VDOF Baseball Afternoon in Norfolk – June 16 \(New\)](#)

[Camp Woods & Wildlife – June 20-24](#)

[All Agency Meeting – June 29](#)

[Forest Management Academy – East – September 13 – 15](#)

[Forest Management Academy – West – September 27 – 29](#)

Employee News

Welcome to VDOF

- ◆ We are pleased to announce that Mark Winebrenner has accepted the forest technician position recently vacated by Leslie Mace's promotion to water quality specialist. Mark has been a part-time firefighter for the VDOF for over 21 years. He is a lifetime member of Blairs Volunteer Fire Department (since 1991), has a Class A Commercial Driver's License, and is a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager. Mark began work with the VDOF on April 11. Please welcome Mark to the Central Region and the VDOF when you get a chance.



Tick-Repellent Treatment is Available Again!

- ◆ For new staff and anyone who last took advantage of this wonderful offer two years ago, the agency is once again offering to reimburse field staff for having their field uniform pants treated with tick-repellent from InsectShield. For those of you not familiar with this treatment, InsectShield takes the pants you send them and impregnates them with a permethrin solution that lasts up to 70 washes. The reviews from our folks who have used the treated pants have been 5 stars and I haven't heard anyone who was sorry they did it or who hadn't noticed a significant decrease in ticks. I encourage everyone who spends time in the field to take advantage of this opportunity. If you don't want to take my word for it, ask the other folks in your team.
- As in the past, the agency will reimburse you for the treatment and shipping (both ways) for up to two pairs of field uniform pants. Please do not submit for reimbursement until you have paid for the treatment and shipping back and forth, and have received your pants back. Reimbursement will be on the standard expense voucher. When shipping your pants to InsectShield, please use the [Insect Shield Your Own Clothes Order Form](#) located on the VDOF intranet. Costs, shipping address, and other pertinent info is included on the form.

News You Can Use

Be Alert for Unsolicited Retirement Counseling Services

- ◆ From time to time, VRS receives reports from members and employers that various companies or groups have contacted them via email or phone to offer retirement counseling services or insurance products.
 - Please be aware:
 - VRS **does not** use unsolicited calls to contact members to offer services.
 - VRS **does not** sell services. All benefit counseling is free to members and retirees.
 - Correspondence from VRS will arrive by U.S. mail on official letterhead.
 - Emails from VRS will be sent from a [varetire.org](#) address and include the VRS logo and copyright.
 - VRS staff **do not** come to members' homes to discuss benefits.


Did You Know

- ◆ The Forest Conservation team is happy to announce that they will begin working with a private contractor, Andrea Reese, who will help the agency with real estate acquisitions funded by the Forest Legacy Program. VDOF and its partners have had a great deal of success over the past six years writing

grants and securing federal funding for new state forest tracts and new conservation easements. Andrea will help the agency tackle the high volume of work and help position VDOF for more success with future projects.

Last Week

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ The Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards (CATS) had a very successful spring tree sale at the James Garner Building on April 9. Approximately 90 buyers plus family arrived at 10am. There were 367 trees of 35 different varieties and every tree was sold within an hour. There were many compliments about the VDOF setting.
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- ◆ In March, the Forestland Conservation Program successfully established its 199th open-space easement on the Nottoway Property in Southampton County. This project permanently conserves over 838 acres, including over 800 acres of forest, extensive cypress/tupelo swamp, and part of two natural heritage conservation sites. The easement will combine actively managed forests with no-cut and natural areas, and will establish over two miles of an enhanced riparian buffer on the Nottoway River, a state-designated scenic river. The project was supported by funding from the USFWS's National American Wetlands Conservation Act program and the Enviva Conservation Fund. Thanks to the landowner, The Nature Conservancy, Amanda Scheps (forest conservation specialist) and several others at the agency for their vision and perseverance in protecting this valuable property for the benefit of the Commonwealth. (Photo: cypress/tupelo swamp on the Nottoway Property).
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- ◆ Karl Didier (forestland conservation manager) represented VDOF on a call with the federal Department of Energy and several other states regarding issues related to siting solar facilities. The call was primarily a listening session for the DOE but it did allow us to connect with other states facing similar issues and to discuss approaches to better siting decisions that protect farm and forestland.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ On April 6 and 7, Joe Rossetti (hardwood initiative coordinator) and Dean Cumbia (director of forest resource management) attended the 22nd biennial Central Hardwood Conference, hosted by West Virginia University in Morgantown. The conference is dedicated to forest sustainability and improvement, and brings together forest managers and scientists to discuss research and issues in forest ecology, silviculture, fire ecology, climate change, emerging technologies, and forest management. Conference topics of particular interest included mixed shortleaf pine / oak regeneration and stand development, crop tree release, oak regeneration and silviculture, success of oak stump sprouts, hardwood planting, and prescribed fire frequency and intensity.
- ◆ On April 4, Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) and Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester) attended a call with the organizers of Firewood Scout, a website tool where people can search for local, treated firewood wherever they are camping. VA has been a member of Firewood Scout for a

few years but the website was recently redesigned and the VA resource page will be updated.

<https://firewoodscout.org/>

- ◆ On April 6, Katlin DeWitt attended a Pre-Flight Season Digital Mobile Sketch Mapper (DMSM) Training organized by members of the Forest Health Assessment and Applied Sciences Team of the U.S. Forest Service. The DMSM is mapping software utilized by forest health staff to conduct aerial and ground surveys of forest health disturbances. This training was a refresher on tablet maintenance, functions for mapping in flight, and data organization.
- ◆ VDOF's Southern Pine Beetle Survey is underway. A total of 25 traps have been placed throughout Virginia and will be monitored over the next 4-5 weeks. Amanda Conrad (forest health technician) collected week 1 samples from the traps at Cumberland and Prince Edward State Forests.
- ◆ The Forest Health program is partnering with two minor league baseball teams this summer to conduct outreach about the emerald ash borer and how to protect ash trees. Amanda Conrad worked with Richmond Flying Squirrels and Norfolk Tides baseball teams to design messaging and graphics to be displayed in the stadiums.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Jerre Creighton (research program manager) delivered a presentation on the history and highlights of the VDOF research program at the spring seminar series of the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation in Blacksburg.
- ◆ The nurseries are beginning to get ready for fumigation the week of the 18th. A few contractors are still picking up seedlings. Planting will continue after April 15, based on weather conditions.

State Forest

- ◆ Fourteen students from Grayson County High School assisted with a tree planting project at the Matthews State Forest. Redbud trees were planted along the new entrance to the state forest. The students learned the proper planting and tubing techniques, and also about the Virginia State Forest system and careers in forestry.
- ◆ Staff hosted an apple tree grafting workshop at the Matthews State Forest with Virginia Cooperative Extension. Nineteen people participated. Scion wood from the Matthews orchard that was collected in February was made available for grafting.
- ◆ Staff met with DCR Park Manager from Bear Creek Lake State Park, Joey Dayton, to start discussions about cooperative management areas of property on the Cumberland State Forest adjacent to the park. The thought is to promote good forest management while educating the public about the management activities being considered.
- ◆ Staff met with Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) wetland biologists and Ducks Unlimited biologists staff to review the wetlands area on Charlotte State Forest. Discussions centered on the various repairs, improvements, and maintenance of the various impoundment area dikes, and structures to control water levels. Ducks Unlimited staff were very interested in the areas and suggested that the wetlands found on Charlotte are a primary stop on migration travel. Several species of waterfowl were observed on site during the field visit. There are possible grant opportunities and partnerships to develop for getting this work completed.
- ◆ The first timber sale on First Mountain State Forest is currently out for bid. The timber sale area contains approximately 40.1 acres, estimated to be 131,000 board feet of mostly pine and some hardwood sawtimber and 2,989 tons of pine & hardwood pulpwood.

Central Region

- ◆ Amy Bigger (area forester), Hassan Gray (forest technician), and Joe Rossetti met to collect data for the Hardwood Assessment Tool on a property in Lunenburg County. The stand being assessed is about 13-year-old natural hardwood regenerated by means of clearcutting a hardwood stand. The current owner is the third owner of these young hardwoods, and wants to know if this stand can be managed productively. The stand assessment will help Amy prepare recommendations for the landowner to manage the stand for a rotation of hardwoods instead of chipping and converting to pine at the earliest opportunity.

- ◆ Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board members presented a belated 2021 Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) Award to Jeff Green of Madison County. Ed Furlow (area forester) and Adam Downing (Virginia Cooperative Extension forester) spoke to the accomplishments and deserved character of Mr. Green, valued with this award. Jeff was nominated by former Madison County Forester, Jack Kauffman, for good forest stewardship on his property these past 35 years. He has maintained a working relationship with VDOF foresters since he bought the property, and implemented many forestry projects since then. Former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore was in attendance to observe the presentation on his ancestral homeplace. The Gilmores originally settled on this land in the 1700s. (Pictured)



- ◆ Jim McGlone (urban forest conservationist) assisted the Northern Virginia SWCD with its seedling sale. This year the District sold 1,280 bundles of seedlings in 2 hours and 20 minutes. Each bundle contained 6 seedlings in 3 different species. Jim helped put the bundles together and was on hand to answer citizen's questions during the distribution. He later did an on-line presentation on how to plant seedlings and answer additional questions. The leftover and unclaimed seedlings were given to the Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax ReLeaf for planting in invasive species management areas and community planting events.
- ◆ Jim McGlone conducted a tree walk/data collection with the Hollin Hills Civic Association. Jim wrote a Neighborhood Forest Management Plan for them in 2016. Since then the community has removed almost an acre of Japanese knotweed and several acres of vines. Jim's plan also inspired the community to increase spending on their common areas from \$6,000 per year to \$36,000 per year. Jim was glad to see his efforts leading to real world results and will update the plan with data he collected during the visit.
- ◆ Zoe Bergman (area forester) and Jacob Zielinski (bay watershed specialist) assisted John Marshall SWCD with an afforestation planting at Glenmore Farm. Students from Fauquier County High School volunteered their time to assist with the planting as well. (Pictured)



Western Region

- ◆ Justin Funk (area forester) represented VDOF for career day at Carroll County high school. Roughly 300 people were in attendance, including students, teachers and administrators. Attendees enjoyed seeing the dozer/transport unit. Justin spoke about wildland firefighting, prescribed burning and took the opportunity to promote Camp Woods & Wildlife.

- ◆ During last week's high winds and increased fire behavior, Mount Rogers team members Randy Fleming and Chris Sullivan responded to and assisted with a wildfire on USDA Forest Service (USFS) lands. Just two days later our two agencies were back on the fire line together, this time on private land in the vicinity of USFS land. Good working relationships and communications between the two agencies really made a difference on these fires.

- ◆ Natural Chimneys Park is owned and operated by the County of Augusta's Parks and Recreation Department. The park is a popular camping site and hosts outdoor events, such as the Red Wing Roots Music Festival and a jousting tournament. Last summer, a walnut tree fell on an occupied campsite during a storm. Luckily, no one was injured, but as a result, staff at the park reached out to the Virginia Department of Forestry for help in identifying hazard trees, so as to develop a plan to remove trees that pose a risk of injuring someone or damaging property. Patti Nylander (senior area forester) worked with the park to identify over 30 trees that needed to come down. Most of the trees were green ash that had obvious signs of emerald ash borer (EAB) damage and were in a state of decline. The park uses a lot of the trees it takes down for firewood that it sells on site to visiting campers. However, the number and size of the trees that had to come down far exceeded the amount of firewood the camp staff could process. Joe Lehnen (VA Urban Wood project coordinator) met with park staff and talked to them about some of the different options and ideas for using the wood from the cut trees. A local tree care company felled the largest hazard trees, and campground staff removed smaller trees. Joe put the staff in contact with a local woodworker, who was able to take the logs off site and process them into lumber for various projects. The county was saved the big expense of having the large trees removed, and the wood will be used for future projects! (Pictured).



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- ◆ David Tompkins (forest technician) and Denny McCarthy (area forester) recently provided a Wildland Fire Refresher Training class for Botetourt County Fire & Rescue. Between indoor lecture and outdoor hands-on sessions, topics included wildland fire basics, how VDOF integrates with local response, the resources VDOF provides, and a practical exercise covering arrival-on-scene, size-up, strategy, and implementation of hand-line construction. Twenty participants spanning both career staff and company volunteer firefighters enjoyed the day. (Pictured)



Public Information

- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator) gave a virtual presentation on oak decline to the Historic Rivers Master Naturalist chapter.
- ◆ Ellen Powell was awarded a grant to create a 5 to 10-hour professional development module on Virginia's forests, which will be hosted on the Virginia Department of Education's learning platform for teachers. The \$4,500 grant will be used to support educational programming efforts of VDOF, in support of the forest literacy plan that is under development.

News Clips

- ◆ [Domain Timber Advisors to Lead Investment Management of Virginia Timberland Portfolio](#)
- ◆ [Reck on the Road: Inside a Controlled Burn](#)
- ◆ [Neighbors question application to develop data centers in Bristow community](#)
- ◆ [Turning Old Cell Phones into Forest Guardians](#)
- ◆ [Gloucester landowner recognized for land management efforts](#)
- ◆ [Reducing Wildfire Risk and Improving Wildlife Habitat](#)
- ◆ [City's Public Works Department Receives Award For Urban Forestry And Wood Program](#)
- ◆ [Two people burned in weekend wildfire](#)
- ◆ [For Love of Nature: Trees can help reduce effects of climate change](#)
- ◆ [KEN PERROTTE: Poultry numbers might be paltry, but you can help](#)
- ◆ [Harrisonburg Public Works' Urban Wood Program wins Governor's award](#)