



**April 25, 2022**

## **Upcoming Events**

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

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

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

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

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

**[Forest Carbon Symposium](#) – June 1 (NEW)**

**[Women's Tree Climbing Workshop](#) – June 3 – 5 (NEW)**

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

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

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

- ◆ Don't forget to register for the VDOF Forest Health Workshops on June 8th in Charlottesville and June 9th in Galax. Dr. David Coyle from Clemson University is leading the workshop and will discuss the identification, diagnosis, and management of native and invasive forest pests in Virginia. The deadline to register is Wednesday, May 4th. Register online (free): <https://forms.gle/ggY7zB1RoawfZCNc6>

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

**[Softwood Lumber Grading Training](#) – June 13 – 16 (NEW)**

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

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

- ◆ Applications have closed and camp is full with a waiting list.

**[All Agency Meeting](#) – June 29**

**[Project Learning Tree New Facilitator Training](#) – July 26 – 28**

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

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

## Project Updates

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### Urban Wood Project Update

- ◆ Last week the Virginia Urban Wood Group published its 12th VA Urban/Local Wood newsletter. The e-newsletter is distributed through the Trees Virginia Constant Contact platform. Approximately 325 people received this edition, including VDOF personnel interested in the Urban Wood program.
  - Following is a link that will take you to the latest edition of the VA Urban Wood newsletter. Please contact Joe Lehnen ([joe.lehnen@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:joe.lehnen@dof.virginia.gov)) if you would like to be included on the distribution list >> <https://conta.cc/3KWOCaE>
- ◆ We are pleased to announce the release of the UVA Sawmilling video which can now be found on the ForestryTV YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/ouy4mcVF2pg>
  - This video, which highlights the many accomplishments of the UVA Sawmilling program, was a collaborative effort between the Urban Wood Project, the Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) program, and UVA Sawmilling.

## Last Week

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### State Forester

- ◆ Rob Farrell participated in the Virginia Tech Agriculture and Natural Resources Summit.

### Forestland Conservation

- ◆ A buffer planting that occurred on March 25 marked the completion of a months-long collaborative effort to restore a degraded waterway (pictured) on a 350-acre conservation area near Deep Bottom Park in Henrico County, that is owned and managed by the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC). Ashley Moulton, Land Conservation Specialist with CRLC, had been working with VDOF James River Buffer Program Coordinator Deya Ramsden and Capital Region Community Forestry Specialist Eli Podyma on riparian buffers plans for the property since spring of 2021.
  - A drainage ditch was identified as a source of sediment and targeted as a priority. The ditch needed to be regraded and stabilized prior to planting. A Riparian Forest Buffer Mini-Grant sponsored by the Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium (an organization initiated by Amber Ellis of the James River Association) provided funding for the engineering work. Funding of the mini-grant came from the National Fish and Wildlife's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund.
  - Here is a link to an article from the James River Buffer Program blog: <https://thejamesriver.org/helping-restore-a-degraded-waterway/>
- ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester), Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager), Molly O'Liddy (U&CF partnership coordinator), Robbie Lewis (senior area forester), and Lisa Deaton (area forester) met with the Green Infrastructure Center (GIC) about the results of the multi-state coastal forest resiliency study. The study focused on the York River watershed and various surrounding communities, with the goal of identifying threats to coastal forest lands. Leading pressures identified included development,

sea level rise, and introduction of invasive species. This study gives upstream communities the knowledge to proactively decide the best ways to address coastal resiliency within their forest lands.

- ◆ The Virginia 2020 Forest Inventory Analysis data is now available and posted online for FIA data users.
- ◆ Sabina Dhungana (utilization and marketing program manager) attended the 2022 Mass Timber Conference in Portland, OR. With more than 2,000 people in attendance from around the world, the energy in the conference was amazing. Experts shared their experience of working with mass timber products, benefits, project costs and hurdles, types of policy changes, and regulations in place that are needed to support these products and markets. Interesting facts were shared about the market trends, how architects and engineers feel about the use of these emerging products, and discussions around what leaders need to do to recruit mass timber business and project developers in their region and states. There were 60+ speakers, 100+ exhibitors, and 1,000 exhibitors, which provided an exceptional opportunity for networking.

### **Forest Resource Management**

- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) gave a forest health webinar to 72 Natural Resources Conservation Service staff and presented information on emerging pests and updates on pine bark beetles and oak decline.
- ◆ On April 13, Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) and Amanda Conrad (forest health technician) treated eight hemlock trees at Ivy Creek Natural Area. These trees were infested with hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive sapsucking insect, and have now been protected for 5-7 years. Also in attendance were two members of the Ivy Creek Board, who learned about the importance of hemlock treatments and how they work.
- ◆ Joe Rossetti (hardwood initiative coordinator) met with Bill Perry (area forester) and a representative from Greif Paper/Packaging in Amherst to look at potential sites for hardwood demonstration projects. Joe and members of the Shenandoah work area also visited Paul State Forest in Rockingham to locate and evaluate older crop tree release studies there.

### **Agency Lands**

- ◆ In an effort to increase longleaf cone production and reduce collection costs, Ones Bitoki (tree improvement specialist), Dennis Gaston (forest management specialist), Ben Duke (Eastern Region state forest technician), and Jim Schroering (longleaf/SPB prevention coordinator) recently completed grafting native Virginia longleaf pine scion wood onto existing longleaf pine root stock at VDOF's New Kent Forestry Center. The team collected scion from 19 parent trees within the existing clonal nursery at New Kent. They also inventoried, measured, and mapped all 735 trees (ranging in age from 1 to 15 years) so that the correct parent trees could be selected and the proper root stock (based on height and vigor) identified. Grafts will be monitored for survival in the coming weeks.
- ◆ Under the supervision of Ones Bitoki and Jeff Stout (tree improvement technician), this year's loblolly pine controlled pollination work at New Kent concluded with roughly 30,000 bags successfully pollinated. This will yield an estimate of 728 pounds of seeds or 7 million seedlings of our very best genetics.
- ◆ Jerre Creighton (research program manager) and Ed Stoots (state lands manager) attended the board of directors meeting of the Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. After the meeting, Jerre hosted a tour of the Lesesne State Forest chestnut orchards, where the group discussed future plans for sampling and breeding of those trees. The group discussed several ideas that could coordinate well with VDOF efforts.

- ◆ EPA deregulation of transgenic American chestnut could occur as early as 2023, which will raise the possibility of breeding or deploying / testing that material at Lesesne or on other state / private lands in VA.

### State Forest


- ◆ Staff helped Joe Rossetti and Randy Kyner (assistant state forest superintendent) locate and measure two hardwood research plots on the Paul State Forest.
- ◆ Staff participated in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Equipment Technology spring virtual meeting.

### Central Region

- ◆ Members of the Shenandoah Work Area presented an introductory wildland fire presentation and ran a fireline construction exercise for Shenandoah County Fire and Rescue's annual spring fire academy. The presentation was included as part of the students' ground cover fire module. There were 11 students from 6 different volunteer and professional fire departments.
- ◆ Zach Arnold and Cain Harbison (area foresters) presented a tree identification workshop for Middle School FFA members from the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Their presentation was one of 6 stations FFA members cycled through during the event held at Lord Fairfax Community College. In total, 137 students from 7 different Middle Schools attended the event.
- ◆ Members of the Shenandoah Work Area attended and interfaced with the public at Luray's annual Trout Derby (kids' fishing day) at the Hawksbill Greenway. They conducted outreach at the event about the "sticks in the bank" (live stakes) that have "appeared" in the last month, why riparian buffers are important and how they improve water quality and fish habitat, and general information about the agency and our mission, in addition to providing loblolly seedlings to participants.
- ◆ On April 13, the Central Region conducted fire dozer training at the Page County Landfill for 14 full-time employees. The purpose of this training was to help those employees finish any tasks that remained in their task books. The planning and experience of the instructor cadre - Darwin Rhode, Thomas Reeves (forest technicians), Greg Lawrence (part-time operator-Page County) and JD Baker (mechanic) - allowed for a very productive and efficient day of training. All 14 employees had the opportunity to complete the remaining tasks in their task books.
  - We have had the opportunity to host dozer training at the landfill site multiple times in the past and are fortunate to have the support of Page County in utilizing this area. The training site offers the ability to operate on multiple types of terrain in forested and non-forested areas.



## Eastern Region

- ◆ Eli Podyma and Clint Phegley (area forester) assisted the James River Association with plantings at the Broad Rock Branch Library and the West End Branch Library in the City of Richmond. These plantings were done in association with the Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative.
  - ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forestry specialist) and Stephen Jasenak (area forester) attended Tabb Middle School's Science Expo. The event featured representatives from different careers that involve science. Students learned how science is involved in the different career fields and found the answers to the perennial "why do I have to learn this?" question. Over 1100 students attended the event, and Meghan and Stephen were able to talk to many about forestry and how we use science every day. (pictured)
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- ◆ Kendall Topping (community forestry specialist) led a class for the Newport News Master Gardeners at the Mariners Museum. The class was a part of the Master Gardener's new RIP (Remove Invasive Species) program. The program is designed to allow their team to advise and assist homeowners, organizations, and small businesses on identifying and removing invasive species. During the class, 16 invasive plant species were identified and removal techniques were discussed. As a result of the class, 12 Master Naturalist volunteers now have the knowledge to advise for this new program.
  - ◆ Recently, the Blackwater work unit completed a 70-acre first entry understory burn on a ~10 year old longleaf stand in Suffolk. Stephen Jasenak (area forester) was the burn boss on this fire. During the burn, Stephen got a call from reporter Chris Reckling, host of the local daily program *The Hampton Roads Show* from WAVY 10 TV. He asked if he could come and learn more about prescribed fire and produce a segment for his show. He became aware of the burn after seeing it listed on the station's news room board. (The City of Suffolk must have sent a message to their media partners that a prescribed burn was taking place that day.) Mr. Reckling spent probably an hour on the fire lines interviewing several Department staff: Stephen, Meghan Mulroy-Goldman, and Scott Bachman (senior area forester). The program aired on WAVY 10 on April 5 during the 11:00 show. A link to the segment can be found at <https://www.wavy.com/hr-show/reck-on-the-road/reck-on-the-road-inside-a-controlled-burn/>. We hope the program will be a boost to the Department and our efforts in restoring diminished species.
  - ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman, Kendall Topping (community forestry specialists), and Molly O'Liddy attended Virginia Beach's Arbor Day Celebration, marking the city's 42nd year as a Tree City USA. Meghan presented the award to the Mayor and Director of Parks and Recreation. They, along with the President of Keep Virginia Beach Beautiful, assisted in planting an eastern redbud at the historic Lynnhaven House to mark the occasion.
  - ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman and Kendall Topping attended the Work Like A Girl event held by the Chesapeake Public Libraries. The career fair focused on jobs that have been traditionally dominated by men. Meghan and Kendall were able to introduce girls ranging from 3rd grade to high school to the field of forestry. Both WAVY Hampton Roads Show and WCTV were at the event and Meghan gave a brief interview. Link to the interview: <https://www.wavy.com/hr-show/reck-on-the-road/reck-on-the-road-work-like-a-girl/>

- ◆ As part of our Resilient Coastal Forestry efforts, Jim Schroering (longleaf pine/SPB coordinator), Alan Sutherlin (forest technician), and Lisa Deaton (area forester) successfully moved 8 two-year-old potted live oaks from Mathews County to the Sussex Nursery. The seed source for these live oaks is a small island near New Point, which is the northern range limit for live oak on Virginia's mainland. This marks the beginning of a "Virginia Native" seed orchard at the Sussex Nursery for *Quercus virginiana*. (pictured)



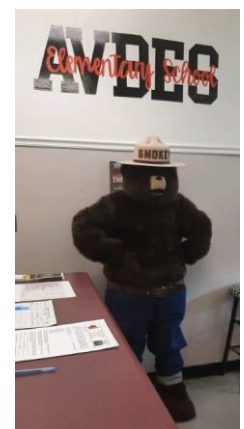
- ◆ Kathleen Ogilvy, Doug Audley, Ricky Butler (area foresters), and Cody Noblitt (natural resource specialist) provided forestry training for the upcoming Area V Envirothon competition. Teams from Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, and Halifax Counties and the Fuqua School in Farmville participated in the training, which was held at Lancer Park in Farmville.

## Western Region

- ◆ On April 14, Bill Miller (senior area forester) represented the Department of Forestry at Abingdon's Tree City USA Ceremony. Present were United States Representative Morgan Griffith, Virginia Delegate William Wampler, and members of the Washington County School Board, among other county officials. The event was hosted by E. B. Stanley Middle School, where students from the school's Beautification Club planted a flowering dogwood. Kevin Sigmon, town arborist, led the ceremony recognizing Abingdon for 21 years of being a Tree City USA community.



- ◆ Collin Sapp (forest technician) assisted a number of partners in judging an area Envirothon competition with teams from Buchanan, Russell and Washington Counties. Castlewood High School (Russell County) will be moving on to the next level competition.
- ◆ Jacob Stinnette (forest technician), Leslie Mace (water quality specialist), and Chad Austin (water quality engineer) investigated a timber transaction complaint in Bedford County. This case involves multiple landowners and two different operators. VDOF has provided the landowners guidance on the civil process and steps needed to get a satisfactory resolution. The investigation is still ongoing.
- ◆ Smokey Bear visited 147 students at Abbs Valley Elementary School. Students learned the five rules of wildfire prevention as they listened to the story of Smokey Bear. Emily Wotton and Collin Sapp (forest technicians) presented and gave a lot of hugs and high-fives! (pictured)



## News Clips

- ◆ [Not-so-Good Friday in Appomattox County with brush fires and accidents](#)
- ◆ [Brush fire on Quantico closes Aden Road](#)

- ◆ [You're Invited to Bluebell Festival at Merrimac Farms 2022](#)
- ◆ [Brush fires spread across Quantico](#)
- ◆ [Dept. of Forestry providing cost-share program to treat ash trees](#)
- ◆ [27 fire rescue personnel fight 20-acre Virginia brush fire](#)
- ◆ [Ash tree treatment cost program developed](#)