



May 2, 2022

## Upcoming Events

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[Forest Carbon Symposium](#) – June 1

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

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

[Teaching Trees Training for Middle and High School Teachers](#) – July 13 – 14

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

[Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning Webinar Series](#) – September 7, 8, 14 & 15

- ◆ Visit <https://dof.virginia.gov/events/> for more public events and <https://dof.virginia.gov/events/category/employee-only/> for more employee only events.

## Employee News

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### Welcome to VDOF

- ◆ Tyler Newton, who is a native of Mecklenburg County, has been selected for the area forester position in the Meherrin Work Area. Tyler has a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation with a minor in Forestry from Virginia Tech, plus 12 months of natural resources experience. He worked as a private lands biologist for the NRCS under their Quail Forever Program. Tyler started with VDOF on April 25. We are very excited to have him as a part of the Central Region and the agency. Please give him a warm welcome when you get the opportunity.



### Annual Inventory Reconciliation

- ◆ It's that time of year again - the annual inventory reconciliation! Please follow directions below and have your signed and dated inventory to Chrissy Gough no later than **May 20, 2022**.
  - Asset Owners may generate inventory reports in **IFRIS** by selecting "Program Areas" then "Asset Management" then "My Property Inventory Report" and finally "Print Preview".
  - After the report is generated, select "Print".
  - Asset owners will then verify the accuracy of the report by physically inspecting all inventory items that are assigned to them and signing the report.

- Any discrepancies should be noted on the report. If necessary, fill out [Form 3.22 Property Inventory Addition](#) to add an item that is missing from your inventory or [Form 26 Damaged, Lost or Stolen Property Certificate](#) to remove a damaged, lost or stolen inventory item.
- ◆ Even if you **do not** have any inventory items you **must** still sign and return your inventory report.

## Did You Know

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### *May Celebrations - [Statewide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Holiday Calendar](#)*

- ◆ Three-quarters of the world's major conflicts have a cultural dimension. Bridging the gap between cultures is **urgent and necessary** for peace, stability and development.
  - May 5 – [Cinco de Mayo \(Mexico\)](#), [Mother's Equal Pay Day](#)
  - May 8 – [Mother's Day \(US\)](#), [Birthday of the Buddha \(Buddhist\)](#)
  - May 16 – [Vesak—Celebration of the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha](#)
  - May 17 – [International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia](#)
  - May 19 – [Birthday of Malcolm X \(Black American/Muslim\)](#)
  - May 21 – [World Day for Cultural Diversity, Dialogue and Development](#)
  - May 22 – [Harvey Milk Day](#)
  - May 24 – [Declaration of the Bab \(Baha'i\)](#), [Pansexual Visibility Day](#)
  - May 26 – [Ascension Day \(Christian\)](#)
  - May 29 – [Ascension of the Baha'ullah \(Baha'i\)](#)
  - May 30 – [Memorial Day](#)

## Last Week

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### *State Forester*

- ◆ VDOF hosted the first in person meeting of the Steering Committee for the Hardwood Forest Habitat Initiative at VDOF Headquarters. The stakeholders discussed the overall Initiative and provided input on priorities and strategies moving forward, including outreach and training. VDOF provided updates on completed and upcoming work and events. This committee also serves as the Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy Advisory Committees.
- ◆ VDOF has joined the effort in Virginia to develop Sustainable Aviation Fuel made from woody biomass material such as timber harvest residues. The effort is being shepherded by the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics. Along with the primary goal of reducing the carbon footprint of the aviation industry, VDOF sees this initiative as a way to provide a market for low quality hardwood timber and support healthier hardwood forests.

### *Fire and Emergency Response*

- ◆ Over the last seven-day period ending April 25, the VDOF suppressed 19 fires that burned 732 acres. The largest fire over the last week was a 350-acre fire in Buchanan County.
- ◆ As of the morning of the 25th there was a new active large fire in Buchanan County, estimated at 300 acres, with one home and several outbuildings threatened.

## Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban & community forestry [U&CF] partnership coordinator), Jeremy Falkenau (senior area forester), and Dominic Chirico (area forester) brought Smokey Bear to Cool Spring Elementary School. Six kindergarten classes learned about fire safety and the values of trees for Earth Week. Two dogwood trees were planted in the school's learning garden.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester), Molly O'Liddy, and Jonah Fielding (area forester) attended Charlottesville High School's first Green Career Fair. Partner agencies, non-profits, local arborists, and landscape businesses shared with the students information on different career paths in natural resources.
- ◆ Joe Lehnen, Molly O'Liddy, and Jonah Fielding partnered for an outreach opportunity at the Charlottesville High School's Urban Farming/Environment Careers Field Day. VDOF stations highlighted the role of an area forester, the U&CF's Urban Orchard program, and the Urban Wood program which included a portable sawmill demonstration. (pictured)
- ◆ John Pemberton (forest inventory and analysis [FIA] program manager) coordinated a live feed presentation by Mark Albert, Chief National Investigative Correspondent with Hearst Television, from an FIA forest inventory plot located at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston for Earth Day. The live feed was done for all time zones. A pre-recorded segment featured the FIA program.
- ◆ John Pemberton worked with Joe Rossetti (hardwood initiative coordinator), Dean Cumbia (director of forest resource management), and Scott Adams (area forester) to implement the Hardwood Assessment Tool (HAT) on three hardwood stands on the Department of Wildlife Resources' (DWR) Oakley Farm Wildlife Management Area (WMA). As they were wrapping up for the day, Adams and Pemberton met VDOF retiree, Danny Roberts, onsite. Danny provided background on the stand histories (prescribed burn in one case; basal spray in another).
- ◆ American Institute of Architects (AIA)'s credits are important to encourage high participation from architects and engineering communities in our Mass Timber Event in July. Staff developed learning objectives, event descriptions, and a detailed agenda to apply for AIA credits, and worked with Virginia Tech, our partner for the event, to get this information submitted for AIA credit approval. Approval will assist in advertising for the event.



## Forest Resource Management

- ◆ On April 20, Forest Health Program staff (Lori Chamberlin, Katlin DeWitt, and Amanda Conrad) met the Capital Work Area staff (Jeremy Falkenau, Jesse Bander, Dave Slack, Clint Phegley, Alanna Ostrowski, Dominic Chirico, and Eli Podyma) at North Anna Battlefield Park in Hanover County. Everyone worked together to treat 88 hemlock trees in the park to protect them against the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect that causes hemlock mortality. Following the treatment, the Forest Health Program staff met with the Capital Work Area staff to discuss common forest health threats in their area and how to work together to mitigate impacts and distribute educational material.
- ◆ Two operational scale Crop Tree Release demonstration projects were completed, on the Appomattox-Buckingham and Prince Edward-Gallion state forests. Totalling 83 acres, these projects encompass



many of the strategic elements of the Hardwood Initiative: use of the Hardwood Assessment Tool (HAT), training for VDOF employees (HAT and stand marking), service provider development, outreach, and collaboration. (The work is being supported in part by the U. S. Forest Service [USFS].)

- Additional developmental work on hardwood demonstration areas was done on Virginia Tech's McCormick Farm in the Shenandoah Valley and on one of the Piedmont Wildlife Management areas.
- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) and Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) participated in a call with the USFS on April 21 to plan for 2022 spongy moth aerial surveys in western Virginia. The USFS surveys the National Forests when there is a threat of significant defoliation, and VDOF flies state and private land. Survey plans are discussed between the two agencies to prevent flying over the same areas. All data collected will be shared and used to produce one statewide map.
- ◆ Lori Chamberlin and Katlin DeWitt attended the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) annual meeting on April 22 at VDOF Headquarters. The CAPS program conducts science-based national and state surveys targeted at specific exotic plant pests, diseases, and weeds that are threats to agriculture and/or the environment. This meeting is attended by plant pathologists, entomologists, and state and federal agencies that participate in or benefit from these surveys.

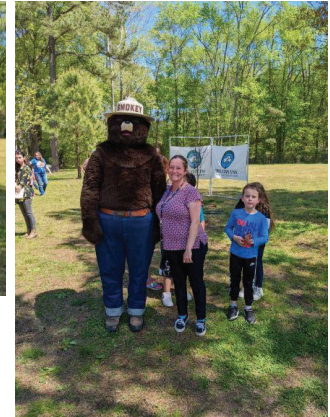
### **State Forest**

- ◆ Staff inspected mile-a-minute vine infestation at the Paul State Forest and discussed control plans with forest health staff, who have the opportunity to obtain and release additional weevils from VDACS.
- ◆ Staff conducted two days of Earth Day activities for 108 2nd grade students from Grayson and Carroll Counties on the Matthews State Forest. Donnie Garman, Justin Funk, and Dan Hosack (area foresters), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), all worked together to teach the students about forestry, wildlife, aquatics, plants and soils, and other aspects of natural resources conservation. Smokey also made an appearance.

### **Eastern Region**

- ◆ Kendall Topping (community forestry specialist) attended the Partner and Media Event for the Jericho Lane Trailhead Enhancement Project for the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The event celebrated the recent and future partnerships working toward the vision of featuring the history of the indigenous and African-American people of the swamp. This vision includes rejuvenating the trails, creating a visitor and education center, and other future projects. To celebrate these projects, the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was joined by representatives of Senator Kaine's and Warner's offices, Dominion Energy, Dave Hennanman (Nansemond Indian Nation Assistant Chief), LeRoy Bennet (vice mayor of the City of Suffolk), Suffolk City Council persons LeOtis William and Lou Ward, and other neighbors and interested parties. Kendall has been partnering with the manager of the swamp Chris Lowie and the Dismal Swamp Collaborative on these efforts.

- ◆ Arbor Day/Earth Day celebrations are in full swing in Southeastern Virginia. Last week Kendall Topping attended a celebration at Virginia Wesleyan. The Earth Fair included the Elizabeth River Project and Chesapeake Bay Foundation partners. An estimated 40 university students attended the event. Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forestry specialist) joined volunteers from Newport News Shipbuilding at Christopher Newport Park in Newport News to gather trash, spread mulch, and hand out seedlings. Meghan spoke with the group about longleaf pine. Participants were able to take a longleaf seedling home with them after the event. Stephen Jasenak (area forester), Scott Bachman (senior area forester), and Meghan Mulroy-Goldman completed the week of celebrations with a visit to the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Arbor Day event. This ceremony and tree planting was completed with the help of over 100 elementary school students from Bethel Manor Elementary School. Colonel Heritage and the Natural Resource staff at the base talked to the students about trees and the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of being a Tree City USA before Meghan introduced Smokey to the students. (pictured)



- ◆ On Tuesday, April 19, Heather Dowling (senior area forester), Jack Colyer (forest technician) and Cody Noblitt (natural resource specialist), participated in the Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District's Farm Day for Dinwiddie County 3rd graders who missed the event last year due to COVID restrictions. This Farm Day was held at Cockade Stables, owned by Jeff and Amy Grieco. Heather, Jack, and Cody spoke about the importance of trees and forests and how we protect them from wildfire. The students were asked to identify products from trees and forests and the consensus among these third graders was that maple syrup was their favorite product. Several students also claimed to want to work for the VDOF once they were old enough.
- ◆ Interesting side note: Jeff Grieco worked for VDOF as an FIA forester for approximately six years, leaving us to pursue a career with Chesterfield Fire Department.
- ◆ Another interesting side note: Farm Day was started in Dinwiddie by the Appomattox River Soil and Water District. Farm Day aimed to give an overview of farming to all the school children of the District. The event quickly expanded to include forestry and natural resources, and the idea spread to neighboring districts. (pictured)



- ◆ Doug Audley, (area forester) and a part time firefighter assisted the Nottoway Fire and Rescue crews with a structure fire near Fort Pickett. The metal barn was full of large square bales of hay that are used as fuel for the boiler at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital. The barn was approximately 80 feet wide by 360 feet long. The VDOF dozer installed a safety line around the structure to prevent the spread of the fire into the fields and woods, and then assisted in the fire departments' extinguishing efforts. In addition to the VDOF dozer crew, units from Fort Pickett Fire Department, Blackstone Fire Department, South Hill Fire Department, and a local contractor worked to extinguish this fire. Two dozers, an excavator, and a skid steer were used to break apart the burning bales and to save as many hay bales as possible. This is an excellent example of multiple agencies working together. (pictured)



- ◆ The Shore work area recently conducted a coastal resiliency planting at Burtons Shore, on the seaside of Accomac County. The project involves planting loblolly in a formerly open/tilled ag-field (taken out of crop production just this year) bordering a tidal marsh. We now have 130 more acres of forested land, and 17,877 feet of new riparian buffer covering around 20 acres. (pictured)



## Central Region

- ◆ Martha Warring, (senior area forester) presented a Tree Campus USA award to Randolph College in Lynchburg. Earth Day and Arbor Day were a combined event for the students. House plants and t-shirts were given to those who came by the exhibits and several plants were added to the pollinator garden on campus. Recycling, wise water use, pollinators, and general care for the environment were emphasized by the exhibitors present. (pictured)



## News Clips

- ◆ [Wildfire in Giles County burns nearly 50 acres](#)
- ◆ [60 first responders rush out to large, Easter Sunday brushfire in Giles County](#)
- ◆ [Two McGaheysville Homes Total Losses After Weekend Fires](#)
- ◆ [THE WORLD'S FORESTS DECADES OF LOSS AND CHANGE](#)
- ◆ [ANEC'S SEEDLING GIVEAWAY AND MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT IS APRIL 30TH](#)
- ◆ [Ash Treatment cost-share program](#)
- ◆ [Gloucester PRT invites youngsters to Touch A Truck](#)
- ◆ [Gasburg VFD, Central Rescue install officers, present awards](#)
- ◆ [LETTER: Concerns about data centers harming the watershed don't hold water](#)
- ◆ [ANEC'S SEEDLING GIVEAWAY AND MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT IS APRIL 30TH](#)
- ◆ [Manassas celebrates Arbor Day with awards for students](#)