



May 23, 2022

Upcoming Events

[Forest Carbon Symposium – June 1](#)

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

[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](#)

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

- ◆ 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 Spotlight

Dan Hosack – Job Well Done!

- ◆ This note was sent from landowner Randy Muir:
 - “I needed to do a controlled burn as a management practice on an area where I have been encouraging the growth of WSG and trying to reduce the pressure of the cool season grasses, along with some other management goals.
 - Your associate Dan Hosack was here a few months ago to assist me with a forest management plan, and that was an excellent experience. I learned a lot about my property and came away with a much clearer idea of the path forward.
 - Somewhere along the line we talked about the prescribed burning assistance services offered by the DOF. So I called upon him to take a look at the area that I had mostly prepared for a burn and offer any suggestions and guidance to reduce the risk and accomplish the goal.
 - I write to you today to tell you about the exemplary services he provided. His guidance was spot on, and the burn went off quickly and without a hitch with his very helpful input.
 - He is a joy to work with and is a huge asset to your division. I would say he is a huge ambassador for the DOF in general. If I were still looking for talent as I often was in my earlier 34 year career, I might be trying to steal him away from you!
 - Thank you for making him available to help me with my projects.”

Daniel Cloeter and Crew – Excellent Work!

- ◆ Below is a letter received from David Bridges of Woodmont of Franklin County Virginia, LLC:
 - “I wanted to express my sincere thanks to your Forestry Department for the excellent work on March 15, 2022, in the burning of eight acres of Sericea Lespedeza on my Woodmont of Virginia Farm. I am well pleased and thankful for Daniel Cloeter and his expert crew for how they handled the burn and were open to my suggestions as to area to burn. This invasive species was planted here generations ago and for the development of Quail Habitat it would have impeded the growth of the new four species of Native Grasses I will be planting very soon.
I hail from a long and storied history of Conservation of game species, principally my grandfather’s efforts at Woodmont Rod & Gun Club in Hancock, Maryland.”

Employee News

Watershed Stewardship Specialists – Patti Nylander, Bill Sweeney and Meghan Mulroy-Goldman – Congratulations!

- ◆ We are pleased to announce that Patti Nylander has been selected as the Watershed Stewardship Specialist for the Central Region. Patti has a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from Virginia Tech and has worked with the VDOF for the past 22 years, including FIA Field Assistant, County Forester in Prince George, Surry, and Augusta Counties, and most recently as a Senior Area Forester for the Mountain Valley Work Area. We are looking forward to working with Patti in her new role and utilizing her knowledge, skills, and abilities to coordinate and develop our watershed and easement stewardship programs. Patti will start her new role May 25.
- ◆ Meghan Mulroy-Goldman was selected to serve as the first Eastern Region Watershed Stewardship Specialist. Meghan brings unique experience to the role having previously served as both a rural natural resource specialist in the VDOF Waverly work area and community forest specialist in the Blackwater work area over the past four years. In her current community forest specialist role, Meghan has contributed to several watershed related projects, including the recently released Resilient Coastal Forests of Virginia report. Meghan will start her new role May 25.
- ◆ Bill Sweeney has been chosen as the selected candidate to fill the Western Region's Watershed Stewardship position. Bill has served as an Area Forester in the Piedmont work area for the past seven years and as the Region's forest health liaison. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resources from the University of Idaho and an AAS degree in Forest Management technology from Haywood Community College. Bill has been active with the Society of American Foresters for many years, serving in numerous leadership positions. Bill is also a United States Army Veteran. Bill will start his new role May 25.

Kudos to Austin Babb!

- ◆ Great job, Austin! Austin Babb (area forester) completed a Reforestation Timberland (RT) project on one property that had fifteen individual landowners. This beats the previous Eastern Region record of twelve landowners held by Zach Dowling (senior area forester) that was accomplished a couple of years ago. All of the documents (application agreement(s), W9s, multiple landowner forms, Cardinal vendor numbers approvals, etc.) numbered 47 pages and were processed by finance last week.

Retiring from VDOF

- ◆ Fred Turck (prevention program manager) is retiring from VDOF on June 1, 2022 after 43 years of service. Congratulations, Fred – enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

- ◆ Tommy Nunnally (forest technician) is retiring from VDOF on June 1, 2022 after 34 years of service. Congratulations, Tommy – enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Last Week

State Forester

- ◆ On May 12, Rob Farrell, Joe Rossetti (hardwood initiative coordinator), Brad Carico (regional forester), and Dean Cumbia (forest resource management director) met with several representatives of the Wildlife Division of the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) at the VDOF Matthews State Forest near Galax. The purpose of the meeting was to collaborate in establishing hardwood habitat demonstration areas on state wildlife management areas (WMA's). These areas cover over 200,000 acres, and DWR and VDOF are interested in increasing hardwood forest management activities to improve and diversify wildlife habitat. (pictured)
- ◆ VDOF held its annual Service Awards luncheon on May 11th at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. Attendees were welcomed by a VDOF retiree and longtime museum volunteer who provided local knowledge, which allowed everyone to enjoy a focused self-guided tour of the museum. Lunch was provided by local SWAM vendor Dayton Catering. In addition to honoring long-term employees who have achieved 25, 30, and 35 years of service, those with 3 years of state service were also recognized as part of our employee engagement objectives.
 - 35 Years of State Service – Randy Fleming, Nelson Hillyer, David Edwards, Thomas Reeves, Martha Warring
 - 30 Years of State Service – Cindy Bronner, John Pemberton
 - 25 Years of State Service – John Colligan
 - 3 Years of State Service – Clint Phegley, Grayson Coleman, Meghan Mulroy-Goldman, Bobby Robertson, Amanda Jones, Benjamin Wassum, Andrew Matteson



Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester), Lara Johnson (urban & community forestry [U&CF] program manager), and Joe Lehnens (urban utilization forester) joined City of Harrisonburg Public Works staff in giving Secretary Matt Lohr a tour of urban and community forestry programs and projects in the city on Friday. The group visited with several urban wood businesses and toured Westover Park, where VDOF has assisted the city on several projects, including ash treatment, ash removal, and urban tree planting projects.
- ◆ Occurring recently was the unveiling ceremony for James Madison University's (JMU's) School of Art, Design & Art History's "Bike Shack" project. The "Bike Shack" is a large, folding structure that holds bicycles, and a bike repair station was constructed for the JMU Occupational Therapy program, which assists juvenile patients with the development of their fine motor skills. The structure is made from Harrisonburg ash trees that were killed by the emerald ash borer. The trees were locally milled and the wood was donated by the City of Harrisonburg for this project. Jeremy Harold, Harrisonburg's Urban Wood Program coordinator, and Joe Lehnens served as technical advisors throughout the project, meeting several times during the design and construction phases with the JMU undergrads and their professor Dr. Nick Brinen.

- ◆ Joe Lehnen organized a visit to the Baltimore Urban Wood Project for the urban wood project leaders from the City of Harrisonburg. The trip featured a stop at Baltimore's municipal wood receiving and processing facility known as Camp Small; visits with three of the region's leading urban wood businesses; and a meeting with the folks from Cambium Carbon, a nationally recognized urban forestry/urban wood collaborator which has projects in at least three major metropolitan areas. The trip provided key information so that the Harrisonburg urban wood program can enhance its success and sustainability.
- ◆ Ed Stoots (state lands manager), Tom Zaebst (state forest superintendent), Randy Kyner (assistant state forest superintendent), Jerre Creighton (research program manager), John Scrivani (retired research information director), John Pemberton (FIA program manager), and Corey Green (assistant professor VT-CNR) met at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest to discuss possible changes to the state forest inventory system.
- ◆ Sabina Dhungana (utilization & marketing [U&M] program manager) met with Simon Hyoun, a representative from Softwood Lumber Board (SLB), to discuss the opportunity to have SLB's mass timber booth at our Wood in Construction and Beyond seminar. Beth Hutchins helped Simon connect with the U&M program, and together we are planning to reach out to architect colleges in the state to educate engineers and architects on mass timber topics. This is a great partnership opportunity.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ On May 12, nearly 50 VDOF staff descended on the Keystone Truck and Tractor Museum in Colonial Heights to attend the Nutrien Solutions Annual Vegetation Management Workshop. VDOF employees came from as far away as Galax, Crimora, Bowling Green and Portsmouth and from the Headquarters office, Central Region, Eastern Region, the State Forests, and State Nursery. There were also participants from other public and private sectors wanting to learn more about herbicide use and to receive continuing education credits to maintain their pesticide applicator's certificate. Once again Nutrien Solutions provided an excellent variety of topics and useful information. One meeting presentation was made by Rodney Newlin (acting deputy regional forester), who highlighted the VDOF's use of drone technology for forest management and prescribed burning. Other topics included Virginia pesticide regulatory updates, alternatives for glyphosate, supply chain management impacts to quantity and cost of herbicides, longleaf pine management, fire ants in Virginia, and elk in southwest Virginia, just to name a few. Overall, the workshop was well organized, the lunch was good, and many natural resource professionals left with a greater understanding of herbicide use and importance to the Commonwealth.
- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager), Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist), Amanda Conrad (forest health technician), and Scott Bachman (senior area forester) met with Eric Day and Neil Clark (Virginia Cooperative Extension [VCE]) in Southampton County to observe and discuss the red imported fire ant (RIFA), its biology, and control methods. VCE also shot a "15 Minutes in the Forest" segment about RIFA in cutovers and what loggers and foresters should do if working within the quarantine areas.
- ◆ Lori Chamberlin, Bill Perry, and BJ Butler (area foresters), assisted Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) with spotted lanternfly surveys in Lynchburg. It is important to know the extent of the infestation to be able to direct treatment crews that will apply insecticide later this spring. Staff from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture attended and brought two detector dogs that have been trained to sniff out spotted lanternfly egg masses. Everyone (humans and dogs) worked together to survey the area for spotted lanternfly eggs and nymphs. (pictured)



State Forest

- ◆ Staff conducted an educational program for 14 first graders in conjunction with Blue Ridge Discovery Center on the Matthews State Forest.
- ◆ The first timber sale on the Charlotte State Forest is currently out for bid - actually two sales with one being a thinning and the other a total harvest within close proximity of each other.
- ◆ Staff sprayed 1/2 acre of kudzu on the Charlotte State Forest.
- ◆ Staff met with officials from King William County concerning developing additional recreational opportunities with the county at Sandy Point & Zoar State Forests. The county is in process of hiring a consultant to develop an assessment of need and is very interested in possibly developing recreational opportunities, but VDOF would need to bring some funding to the table also.

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ A quick quote is currently posted for doing chemical site prep on the Virginia Tech - McCormick Farm State-Owned Lands Project and the Bland Corrections State-Owned Land Project.
- ◆ A quick quote is currently posted for treating invasive species on the Catawba Hospital property - specifically to treat miscanthus found on the property to reduce the fire danger to the property & general campus.

Good Neighbor Authority

- ◆ A quick quote is currently posted for doing mechanical site prep on two units of the Round Mountain West - Hunting Camp Timber sale in Bland County. Site prep consists of sawing down 1 to 6 inch diameter hardwoods that were left standing (that are not oak, hickory or walnut.)

Central Region

- ◆ The Town of Luray recognized Cain Harbison's (area forester) hard work and dedication with a proclamation at the Town Council Meeting, thanking Cain for his work on Hawksbill Creek. Cain Harbison led multiple volunteer day efforts to plant 3700 live stakes along nearly a mile of creek frontage. (pictured)
- ◆ The Shenandoah Work Area participated in a tour of Eby's Sawmill in Clearville, Pennsylvania to witness first hand where some of the wood in the Shenandoah Valley is processed for distribution. Logs that come into the wood yard are sold as whole logs in containers, or sawn into boards. The "waste" products are processed for landscape grade mulch and hardwood pellets. The products leaving the mill are sold locally and internationally, depending on the markets at the time. Special thanks to Eby's sawmill for hosting the tour, and Darwin Rhodes (forest technician) for organizing the trip. (pictured)



Eastern Region

- ◆ Rich Reuse (area forester) presented indoor Tree ID to the Chesterfield Master Naturalist Chapter. There were 18 students in attendance. Rich has been giving this presentation/class to both the Chesterfield and Powhatan Master Naturalists since 2009.

- ◆ Clint Phegley (area forester), Eli Podyma (community forestry specialist), and Jesse Bander (natural resource specialist) attended a Firewood Business Workshop hosted through a partnership between the US Forest Service, North Carolina Forest Service, and Virginia Department of Forestry.
- ◆ Clint Phegley represented VDOF at the Colonial Williamsburg Annual Garden Symposium. Clint spoke with attendees about VDOF services with an emphasis on the benefits of native trees. During the event Clint also handed out approximately 150 pines.
- ◆ Stephen Jasenak and Evan Richardson (area foresters) instructed the wildland and ground cover fire portion of the FFT1 class for 20 new firefighter recruits of the York County Fire Department. There was a classroom presentation session followed by a field exercise, which consisted of safety guidelines when working around VDOF dozers, line construction with a dozer, and installing a hand line suitable to control a fire according to fuel type. The field portion of the training was held on woodlands managed by our partners at the Newport News Waterworks. (pictured)
- ◆ The Peanut Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) held their first in person Farm Day since the onset of the COVID pandemic. Kendall Topping, Meghan Mulroy-Goldman (community forestry specialists), Stephen Jasenak, Evan Richardson (area foresters), John Rose (forest technician) and Scott Bachman (senior area forester) helped over the span of three days. About 1500 second grade students from Surry County, Isle of Wight County and the City of Suffolk got to meet many natural resource staffers as well as learn about agriculture and where their foods come from. The Virginia Department of Forestry booth covered how farms and landowners manage timber as a crop to provide many of the things that make our lives better every day, including the most important invention of mankind, toilet paper! The students were also challenged to protect our forests by always being careful with fire. (pictured)
- ◆ Lisa Deaton (area forester) joined Kendall Topping and Evan Richardson at the First Annual Lumberjack Fest event in the City of Franklin. The event celebrated the city and region's long and rich history with logging, forest management, lumber production, and papermaking. One goal of the festival is to introduce the importance of forestry and the forest products industry to the next generation. The festival attracted an estimated 400 citizens to the banks of the Blackwater River, and the Virginia Department of Forestry spoke with a quarter of those in attendance. Our message included how we, as well as wildlife, depend on the forests in our everyday lives. Smokey Bear arrived to remind children how to protect our forest resources from wildfire. When not busy spreading the word about the benefits of forests, Kendall found some time to learn how to throw an axe! (pictured)



- ◆ Eli Podyma and Alanna Ostrowski (forest technician) represented VDOF at the Henrico Native Plant Festival. Citizens of Henrico County and surrounding communities gathered at the festival to learn about topics ranging from stormwater management to invasive species control. Eli and Alanna engaged with nearly 400 members of the public to discuss the inclusion and importance of native tree and shrub species in their gardens and provided attendees with valuable resources to aid them in their journeys of planting more native flora. (pictured)
- ◆ VDOF provided one of four Exploration Stations at the inaugural Earth Day event at Machicomoco State Park in Gloucester County. Our exhibit offered leaf rubbing, a table of discovery treasures from the woods, and information related to fire season. We also distributed about 30 longleaf pines to local homeowners, including residents of the Pamunkey Indian Reservation. The exhibit was staffed by park volunteers Kathy Gierlak, Keith Campbell, and Lisa Deaton (area forester). 250 people participated in the event. (pictured)



Western Region

- ◆ Daniel Cloeter (area forester) joined about 15 Sontag Elementary school fifth graders for a lesson on native tree identification. They discussed leaf, bud, and bark identification techniques. They wrapped the lesson up by discussing many of the careers that can be found locally around Franklin County in the forestry field.
- ◆ Erin Perry (forest technician) and Kevin Keith (senior area forester) hosted a basic Wildland Fire & Safety training for 17 employees of Primland Resort. The Resort is located on 12,000 acres of remote mountain property in Patrick County. Over the years, VDOF has responded to several fires on the Primland property and normally provides training about every 3-5 years to interested employees.