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**June 20, 2022**

## **Upcoming Events**

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**[All Agency Meeting – June 29](#)**

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

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

**[Wood in Construction and Beyond Seminar – July 27](#)**

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**

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***Kevin Dawson, David Powell, Chuck Wright, & Rodney Newlin – Excellent Job!***

- ◆ Kevin Dawson (acting water quality engineer), David Powell (senior area forester), and Chuck Wright (area forester) presented the harvesting and forest sustainability field trip for the SHARP Logger CORE class held last week at Tapscott's Shop in Fluvanna County. Rodney Newlin (water quality engineer) pitched in while on vacation by providing snacks and beverages for the event. The following is an excerpt from a thank-you note received from Adam Downing of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) about the event:
  - "Dear VDOF team,  
Thank you very much for an excellent job yesterday at the CORE training. Kevin, great communication, relatability and common sense. David and Chuck, great practicality and site selection. Rodney, thank you for the snacks and beverages. Perfect. I am thankful to be able to work with you."

## **Employee News**

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***Welcome to VDOF***

- ◆ This year's Matthews State Forest interns began work on May 31. Connor Austin and Paul DiGiacomo are both rising juniors at Virginia Tech. Paul is an Environmental Resource Management major with a forestry minor and Connor is a Forest Resource Management major. While most of their time will be spent on various projects on the Matthews State Forest, they will also spend time on other state forests, Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) projects, and work with regional staff, as well as completing a research project. The Matthews summer interns positions are supported by the Matthews

Foundation through Virginia Tech with Zach Olinger (state forest manager and education specialist) as a part of the interview panel for intern selections.

## News You Can Use

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### *Vehicle Mileage – Early Reminder!*

- ◆ This is just an early reminder that all vehicle mileage as of June 30, 2022 will need to be entered into IFRIS around the first of July.

## Last Week

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### *State Forester*

- ◆ **VDOF Employees Make Rescue on the Eastern Shore** – On June 14, two Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) employees overheard a county emergency call about two people conducting bird surveys who had become lost in the marsh near Parksley. One of them was in acute medical stress from an asthma attack. The two forest wardens and a part-time VDOF firefighter immediately mobilized to assist. Search and rescue personnel from Accomack County Public Safety, volunteer fire departments, and VDOF teamed up to search the expansive tract of marsh and woods on the bayside of the shore. Based on cell phone pings by law enforcement, the two individuals were found by the VDOF staff, who also helped to coordinate their rescue. VDOF staff's training and experience with GPS mapping and orienteering in remote areas, under all weather conditions, contributed to the successful rescue. In addition to the asthma attack, both individuals were in significant danger due to extreme heat and humidity. They were taken to a local medical facility and are reported to be recovering and in good condition.
- ◆ Matt Poirot (water quality program manager) received the George E. Dissmeyer Forest Water Resource Outstanding Service Award. The award was presented to Matt at the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC on June 8, 2022. (pictured)
  - This award recognizes outstanding forestry service and achievement in the area of forest water quality protection and is awarded to individuals, groups, or agencies who have made significant contributions to the science of forest hydrology, watershed management, or forestry Best Management Practice (BMP) programs. The award is sponsored by the SGSF, SGSF Water Resources Committee, and the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region.
  - Matt has served the forest sector as the Water Quality Program Manager for the VDOF in a career that spans over four decades. Throughout this time, he has led the advancement of forestry BMPs in Virginia and the Southern Region, and even served as an expert regarding BMP efficacy at the national and international levels.



### *Forestland Conservation*

- ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester) represented the VDOF at the annual Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI) graduation ceremony. VNRLI is a professional development program providing skills in conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving for leaders confronted with Virginia's most pressing natural resource issues. Western Region Water Quality Engineer Chad Austin was a member of the 2022 graduating class. Central Region Deputy Regional Forester Justin Barnes serves on the VNRLI staff and also was in attendance. In addition, former State Forester and Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring was honored for her professional achievements, as she was

presented with the Gerald P. McCarthy Award for Leadership in Environmental Conflict Resolution. The award is presented annually to an individual who has taken a leadership role in preserving and protecting Virginia's environment by fostering collaboration and conflict resolution.

- ◆ Lara Johnson met with representatives from Virginia Tech and James Madison University who are working on a case study focused on the success of recovery tree planting initiatives following natural disasters. This specific study is looking at tree planting efforts following a tornado in Glade Spring, Virginia in 2011.

## Forest Resource Management

- ◆ Dean Cumbia (director of forest resource management) attended the Forest Management Committee meeting at the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting in Greenville, SC on June 7-9. Major discussion topics were interaction with federal landowner assistance programs (including Forest Stewardship and the Natural Resources Conservation Service), wood products updates, drones, nurseries, and ecosystem services. The meeting also provided an excellent opportunity to hear forest management updates and learn from other states.
- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) and Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) attended a planning meeting with the Virginia Association of Forest Health Professionals steering committee on June 7. This was the first meeting to discuss and plan the 2023 forest health conference to be held in February in Blacksburg.
- ◆ The forest health program hosted two forest health workshops: June 8 in Charlottesville and June 9 in Galax. Dr. Dave Coyle, assistant professor at Clemson University, taught the group how to identify, diagnose, and manage native and invasive pests specific to Virginia forests. A total of 79 forest health professionals (VDOF, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Va. Cooperative Extension) attended these workshops.
- ◆ VDOF forest health, urban wood utilization, and Capital work area staff attended a Grand Slam outreach event at the Richmond Flying Squirrels baseball game on Friday, June 10. The Grand Slam Program highlights the devastating effects of the emerald ash borer (EAB), how to slow the spread by sourcing firewood locally, and utilizing larger dead ash via service providers in the urban wood business directory. Educational material and give-away items were handed out, and Smokey threw the first pitch of the game. (pictured)



## State Forests

- ◆ Eastern forest consultants completed initial invasive species spraying on the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest last week, treating primarily tree-of-heaven and some paulownia. Over 650 acres were covered, including areas within 100 feet of roads and trails and known isolated spots. Treatment consisted of foliar spraying and hack-and-squirt of larger trees.
- ◆ Eastern forest consultants also foliar sprayed autumn olive areas found this past winter on the Cumberland State Forest.
- ◆ Staff conducted an "in house" Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) and American Tree Farm Standards (ATFS) certification pre-audit. State Forests being audited this year include Lesesne, Appomattox-Buckingham, Prince Edward-Gallion, and Charlotte. The official audit will occur June 21-23 starting at the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest Office.
- ◆ Staff treated an area of kudzu on the Charlotte State Forest, but a contractor may be needed for additional areas.

- ◆ The last State Forest timber sale for the current fiscal year occurred last week on the Charlotte State Forest (our first for this State Forest). The sale was purchased by Huber Engineered Wood Products and consisted of a first thinning and a total harvest. The combined sale has an estimated value of \$216,715.85, so Charlotte County will see an ultimate revenue of approximately \$54,178.96, which is 25% of the sale revenue.

### **State-Owned Lands**

- ◆ Project submission for a timber harvest on the Sussex I & II Correctional property is being circulated for approval. The harvest will consist of a thinning in some areas and a total harvest in others.
- ◆ Logging has started on the College of William & Mary Ash Lawn project near Charlottesville. The sale is a per unit sale being harvested by R&J Flint Logging of Staunton.
- ◆ A quick quote being posted for treating invasive species on the College of William & Mary Ash Lawn property. The goal is to treat kudzu for the third year, along with some wisteria.

### **Central Region**

- ◆ Jim McGlone (urban forest conservationist) conducted a class on Tree Preservation During Construction for the Engineering and Surveyors Institute (ESI). The virtual class was attended by about 55 ESI members looking for continuing education credits and was very well received. Jim talked a little bit about tree biology as it is affected by construction projects, then went into state and county codes as they pertain to tree removal.
- ◆ Lindsey Long (community forest specialist) and Jim McGlone worked with Adam Downing (Virginia Cooperative Extension), Nancy Berlin (Prince William County extension agent) and Jordan Green (Virginia Department Wildlife Resources biologist) to conduct a Woods in Your Backyard (WYBY) field day at Conway Robinson State Forest. The 21 participants heard about forest management, invasive species, wildlife management, and alternatives to lawns. They also got a chance to use an evaluation tool that is part of the WYBY program. Participants received WYBY program books and a copy of VDOF's Common Native Trees of Virginia.

### **News Links:**

- ◆ [USDA awards \\$32M in wood innovations and community grants](#)
- ◆ [Amateur Showcase: Land Conservationist Gets Her Kicks From Two Kinds Of Horsepower](#)
- ◆ [Virginia woodland preserves nature lover's final wish](#)
- ◆ [Ford turns timber harvest into donation to fire department](#)
- ◆ [Big Things Happening at Land Trust of Virginia](#)