



July 11, 2022

2023 VDOF Calendar -- Photo Contest!!

- ◆ Public Information (Communications) is having a photo contest to create the 2023 VDOF calendar. The photos that best tell our story come from you, the women and men of VDOF.
- ◆ Check out the Employee Intranet for full details and rules: <https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/Photo-Contest.pdf>
 - Please submit your photos by July 18th.

Note: Your photos may also be used for other VDOF educational and promotional initiatives.

Upcoming Events

Teaching Trees Training for Middle and High School Teachers - July 13 – July 14

- ◆ VDOF is holding a two-day workshop for middle and high school teachers in Louisa County on July 13-14. The workshop will focus on sustainable local forestry, tree identification, forest ecology, and forest product. The workshop includes Project Learning Tree training, a tour of local working forests and field activities that can be used with students. The Teaching Trees Program is sponsored by the Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation, Society of American Foresters (Skyline Chapter), Dowdy's Forest and Land Management, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Old Bear Enterprises, and Virginia Project Learning Tree.

VDOF – Fire Training Opportunity

- ◆ VDOF's Western Regional Incident Management Team (IMT) will be conducting a Fall Fire Training Academy September 13 - 16 at Breaks Interstate Park, in Breaks, VA. Courses being offered will include:
 - PMS-419 – Engine Operator
 - S-212 – Wildland Fire Chainsaws
 - S-230 – Crew Boss
 - S-130 – Firefighter Training (Field Day)
- ◆ Course enrollment will begin July 11 and will close August 15. Courses may close earlier as maximum capacities are reached. A wait list will be maintained to fill vacancies from cancellations.
- ◆ Course registration information will be emailed out through the regions by the morning of July 11.
- ◆ Housing will be available on-site for students and instructors.
- ◆ Cost for non-VDOF students is \$50.00. Active P-14 members of a county or work area VDOF strike team are considered to be "VDOF students," and will incur no cost for enrollment.

Project Learning Tree New Facilitator Training – October 25-26

- ◆ Rescheduled from July 26-28

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

Do You Know?

July Celebrations – Statewide Diversity Equity and Inclusion Holiday Calendar

- ◆ Which day in July are we charged to take action, inspire change, and make every day more important than ever before?
 - July 1 – [Canada Day](#)
 - July 4 – [Independence Day](#)
 - July 9 – [Eid al Adha](#)
 - July 18 – [International Nelson Mandela Day](#)
 - July 26 – [National Disability Independence Day](#)
 - July 30 – [Hijri New Year \(Islam\)](#)



Let's "Do what we can, with what we have, wherever we are"

Agency Matters/Operations

Virginia Firefighter Resources Deploy

- ◆ 16 wildland firefighters and six VDOF brush trucks are currently in Texas staging out of Fredericksburg, Texas for a two-week wildfire deployment. Located about one hour north of San Antonio, this area is experiencing extreme drought conditions and much more wildfire activity than normal over the last three months. The VDOF resources were deployed based on a request for assistance through a cooperative agreement established since the mid-1940s. VDOF will be reimbursed for all related expenses associated with the response. With no immediate relief currently in sight, it's expected that the VDOF's first team will be replaced as needed, later this month. In addition, four more VDOF staff members have taken fire deployments over the last six weeks, providing incident management support on wildfires in Florida, New Mexico, Texas and Alaska.

VDOF All-Agency Meeting

- ◆ Last week, VDOF held an all-agency meeting in Charlottesville. The first meeting of the entire agency since 2019, the day focused on bringing together employees from every role, responsibility and region to share information, lessons learned and plans for the year ahead, as well as hear from guest presenters and topic experts. In the afternoon the VDOF team was joined by Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr who discussed innovative thinking and the importance of striving to become the best-in-class forestry agency in the nation. Photos posted on flicker <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzXcSE>

2022 Resilient Virginia Annual Meeting Held in Charlottesville

- ◆ State Forester Rob Farrell attended the Resilient Virginia Annual Meeting in Charlottesville on June 30. The meeting focused on bringing partners together from the central and southwestern regions of Virginia to work on joint efforts toward climate resiliency. Attendees, which included representatives and guest speakers from the national, state and local levels, discussed plans for 2022 and beyond, and

covered initiatives to address climate impacts. Representatives from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Georgetown Climate Center, Fairfax and Albemarle counties, and the Town of Blacksburg were in attendance.

National Association of State Foresters Meeting

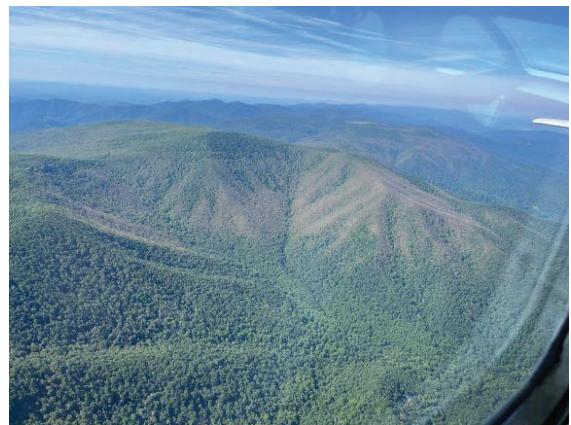
- ◆ On June 27, VDOF staff met with National Association of State Foresters Forestry Partnership Coordinator James Wright to discuss how to increase the amount of conservation practice funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service that is dedicated for forestry practices in the state. Topics covered during the virtual meeting included funding methods for landowner assistance, expanded incentives and cooperative agreements.

Sussex Nursery Inventory

- ◆ The Sussex Nursery, located in VDOF's Eastern Region, has completed its spring inventory and anticipates that approximately 23 million seedlings will be available for sale this winter, nearly one million more than last year.

Spongy Moth Aerial Survey

- ◆ VDOF conducted an aerial survey for the spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth) defoliation on June 28. Reports of caterpillar activity from the Shenandoah work area and Shenandoah National Park were compiled and used as reference points for the flight plan. Heavy defoliation was mapped over the Franklin Cliffs (Page County) area and scattered, moderate defoliation was observed west of Winchester and along the Massanutten mountain range. The defoliation polygons recorded during the survey will be used to create a damage map and calculate defoliation acreage. (pictured)



Forest Resource Management

- ◆ Katlin DeWitt (forest health specialist) and Amanda Conrad (forest health technician) treated a large, 37" ash tree at the VCU Rice Center on June 30. It is on the lawn by the education building and provides many important services to this center including shade, aesthetics, and habitat for wildlife.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Chestnut breeding work at Lesesne is completed - the last pollen was applied on July 4. The next step will be to collect the chestnuts produced from these crosses in early October.

News Links

- ◆ [The VDF is asking that you report the Spotted Lanternfly](#)
- ◆ [Where does a 225-year-old working warship get its parts? At the Navy forest, of course](#)
- ◆ [Father & son duo help keep things moving at Teal Jones Pine Products in Martinsville, Virginia](#)
- ◆ [July 4 Fireworks: Tips For A Safe Independence Day In Virginia](#)