



**July 18, 2022**

## Upcoming Events

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### *Latino Conservation Week – July 16-24*

- ◆ From July 16 - 24, communities throughout the U.S. will observe [Latino Conservation Week](#). An initiative sponsored by the Hispanic Access Foundation, official partner of the [National Park Service](#), to support and encourage the enjoyment of the outdoors and participation in activities such as hikes, park clean-ups, and discussions that celebrate and protect natural resources.

### *Forest Management Academies – [September 13-15](#) and [September 27-29](#)*

- ◆ In order to provide the highest level of information and service to landowners and citizens, VDOF employees need the best and most current knowledge by which to form scientific recommendations. The 2022 Forest Management Academies are intended to foster employee development to meet those needs. The target audience is VDOF field personnel that make or provide forest management recommendations. The [Eastern Academy](#) will be held September 13-15 in the Williamsburg area. It will include a strong focus on pine management, but will include a variety of other topics including wildlife, herbicide modes of action, invasive plants, and pine to hardwood conversion. The [Western Academy](#) will be held September 27-29 near Mountain Lake in Giles County. It will be hardwood-focused and will also include sessions on wildlife, native and invasive plants, soils and herbicides. Both sessions will feature prominent instructors from both outside and within VDOF. Attached are fliers that describe the sessions. Please coordinate with your supervisor regarding attendance and registration.

### *[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.

## Project Updates

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### *Policy and Procedures*

- ◆ [Policy and Procedure 3-5 Personnel, Vehicle, Equipment, Service and Publication Rates](#) has been updated to reflect the new mileage rate of 62.5 cents.

## News You Can Use

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### *Virginia Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine*

- ◆ The Virginia Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine has expanded to include the counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Carroll, Page, Prince William, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Wythe, and the

cities of Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Staunton, and Waynesboro. This quarantine expansion is based on survey data indicating that spotted lanternfly has become prevalent in these cities and counties. Frederick, Clarke and Warren counties and the city of Winchester, which were previously included in Virginia's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine and will remain so until further notice. VDOF employees are required to inspect regulated articles (including, but not limited to, vehicles and outdoor equipment) before moving out of the quarantine areas. Stay tuned for additional information and training from the VDOF Forest Health Staff. VDACS press release: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/press-releases-220708-spotted-lanternfly-expanded-quarantine.shtml>

## Last Week

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### *Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Gloucester*

- ◆ VDOF has confirmed the presence of the emerald ash borer (also known as EAB), an invasive tree-killing insect, in Gloucester County. Since it was first identified in Virginia in 2008, this destructive forest pest – one of the worst to ever invade the U.S. – has destroyed millions of ash trees. The EAB has now been documented in nearly every county across the Commonwealth.

### *Cumberland State Forest Harvesting Planning*

- ◆ VDOF staff met with Bear Creek Lake State Park staff regarding state forest harvesting plans of areas adjacent to the state park and potential management oversight. The Cumberland State Forest, which surrounds the state park, has several pine stands (Loblolly and Virginia) over 60 years old in need of harvesting, as well as hardwood stands between 90 and 120 years old, in need of management. VDOF and DCR leadership teams will be meeting on July 14 to discuss issues of mutual interest including this timber harvest.

### *Miscanthus Control*

- ◆ Control work for miscanthus, a rapidly spreading invasive species of grass that's been labeled an invasive species in the greater Mid-Atlantic region, was completed on the Catawba Hospital property. Approximately 30 acres was treated by Eastern Forest consultants to control the spread around the hospital facility and decrease the danger of fire.

### *Spotted Lanternfly Traps*

- ◆ Staff from VDOF's Forest Health section placed spotted lanternfly circle traps, funnel-style devices that wrap around tree trunks, at several high-risk locations in Albemarle County. Spotted lanternfly nymphs and adults are guided into a container, usually a plastic jug or bag, as they move up to feed. Traps can aid in early detection of new populations of this invasive species around this area. Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect that was first detected in Winchester, has since spread into other areas of the state.

### *VDOF Visits Hanneman Forest Products*

- ◆ VDOF staff visited Hanneman Forest Products to meet the company owners, learn about business operations, and discuss avenues for collaboration and state grant opportunities. The company, headquartered in Mechanicsville, is planning to expand operations in 2022.

### *New Shenandoah County Urban Wood Program*

- ◆ VDOF staff met with Shenandoah County representatives to discuss an urban wood program to better utilize county wood resources. The Shenandoah County delegation included the county planner, director of parks and recreation and the director of solid waste management. The group developed a plan that included harvesting and milling of several dead trees at one of the county parks. The lumber

from these trees would be utilized to create benches at many of the ShenGo Regional Bus stops located throughout the county. Additional plans include board fencing at the county parks and a charcuterie board make-n-take workshop sponsored by parks and recreation.

### ***UVA Launches Urban Wood Program Online Auction***

- ◆ The University of Virginia (UVA) Urban Wood Program has launched an [online auction program](#). Working with UVA administration, the UVA Urban Wood Program will be utilizing the GovDeals auction site. The featured slabs and lumber are from trees that needed to be removed from UVA Grounds, some of which have historical significance. Their first offering features a slab from a 70-year-old white oak tree formerly located near the Rotunda. VDOF staff continues to provide technical and marketing assistance for this program.

### ***Forestland Conservation***

- ◆ Lara Johnson (urban & community forestry [U&CF] program manager) and Joe Lehnen (urban wood utilization forester) met with City of Harrisonburg staff to look at tree preservation during stream restoration projects within the City limits. They also discussed the logistics for the urban heat island focused tree planting project being completed this fall with Bridgewater College.
- ◆ Molly O'Liddy, (U&CF partnership coordinator) finished constructing the Community Forestry position training matrix. This document will be used to assist in the professional development path of current and future community foresters throughout the Commonwealth.
- ◆ Sabina Dhungana worked with Jennifer Leach to gather information on economic impact of forestry industry in Sussex county figures as per the county administrator request and provided him with some useful county industry stats.
- ◆ Terry Lasher (assistant state forester) represented the VDOF at the HB206 stakeholder Work Group. Terry also made a presentation discussing impacts to Ag and forest land due to solar facility construction since 2019. The Work Group is being assembled to develop regulations regarding criteria to determine if significant adverse impacts to prime agricultural soils or forest lands is likely to occur as a result of a proposed solar project that is a small renewable energy project. This work group will also develop criteria for an applicant of a solar project to address in a plan to mitigate any significant adverse impacts to soils and lands.

### ***Forest Resource Management***

- ◆ On July 8, Dean Cumbia (forest management director), Todd Groh (rural programs manager) and Greg Bilyeu (communications director) were interviewed by Adam Culler, Communications Project Coordinator for the Virginia Farm Bureau (VFB). Adam is doing a story on reforestation for the VFB magazine. He was most interested in the Reforestation of Timberlands Program (RT), and we provided information on the background, operation, and results of the program. He also plans to interview Miller Adams (VDOF area forester in Charlotte County), who is also very active in Farm Bureau. In addition to the RT program, we also shared information about the Hardwood Habitat Management Initiative.

### ***State Forest***

- ◆ Meeting was held between DCR-Natural Heritage Staff - Jason Bullock, Anna Chazal, and Karen Patterson and Ed Stoots (state lands manager), Tom Zaebst (state forest superintendent), Shannon Lewis (local state forest manager), and Randy Kyner (assistant state forest superintendent). Focus of the meeting was a revision of the Natural Heritage plan by DCR - what is protected and what is not, what improvements in the plan are needed, and what DCR desires.

### ***Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)***

- ◆ Ed Stoots and Zach Olinger (local state forest manager and education specialist) meet with U.S. Forest Service Mount Rogers staff Barry Garten (area ranger), Chris Shaw, Ed Wright, and Brittney Phillips to review layout on the Ewing Mountain GNA Units 22 & 29 in Grayson County.