



July 25, 2022

Upcoming Events

[Generation NEXT – Southside – August 26-27](#)

[Generation NEXT – Virtual Workshop – September 7,8,14 & 15](#)

[Fall Fire Academy – Western Region – September 13 - 16](#)

[Generation NEXT – New Kent Conference Center – November 2](#)

- ◆ 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

Brenda Clark – Thank You!

- ◆ The African American Heritage Society of New Kent County used the New Kent Conference Center on July 25 for their very first Black History Conference and gave the following feedback:
 - The Conference was a huge success! The facility had the most updated equipment in which we could tape the conference for UTUBE. I want to thank Brenda Clark for assisting us with the arrangements. The hotel rooms were also used by a few of our attendees. They loved how clean the rooms were and how and conveniently close it was to the conference room. They said in the future, when they come to New Kent, they will stay at your facility. Thanks again for all your help and support. Camilla Lewis Tramuel, President.

Employee News

Congratulations!!

- ◆ The Western Region has welcomed two new additions in the first half of 2022. Johnny and Alivia Vest had their first child, Hudson Avery Vest on February 11, 2022. Joe and Kate Cotner had their second child, Logan John Cotner on June 29, 2022.

Project Updates

Policy and Procedures

- ◆ [Policy and Procedures 07-02 Rural Forestry Assistance Program](#), was recently updated primarily to include the procedures for the new Hardwood Habitat Incentive Program (HHIP) and to remove the Forestry Quail Habitat Recovery Program which has ended due to lack of DWR funding. There were

also some changes made to the Federal Programs section by updating the application and plan checklist for the NRCS Conservation Activity Plan (CAP106) which was split to become the Conservation Planning Activity (CPA 106) Forest Management Plan and the Forest Management - Design and Implementation Activity plan (DIA 165). Plan reviewers will now use the new Form 7.16 Virginia Conservation Planning Activity (CPA106) and Design and Implementation Activity (DIA 165) Component Checklist to evaluate these new plans. You are encouraged to review these and several other minor changes [Employee Access Intranet](#).

News You Can Use

Trees for Clean Water Grant Program Applications Due August 25

- ◆ The Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant program is now live. Applicants are required to get a letter of support from VDOF staff prior to submission. More information including the RFP, application and budget worksheet is available on the [VDOF website](#).

Last Week

Office of Regulatory Management Briefing

- ◆ State Forester Rob Farrell and Deputy State Forester Ed Zimmer recently attended a regulatory reform briefing with the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management Andrew Wheeler at the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond. Participants were introduced to the soft rollout of the more transparent process, and submittal timelines of new and revised regulations for review and adoption.

Virginia Association of Assessing Officers Meeting

- ◆ On July 13, State Forester Farrell discussed the importance of forestry to communities and the new Forest Sustainability Fund at the annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Assessing Officers) in Charlottesville. The fund will help offset revenue foregone by localities that utilize forest land use tax. VAAO is composed of county and city commissioners of revenue and land use administrators.

VDOF and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Meeting

- ◆ State Forester Farrell and Deputy State Forester Zimmer met with Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Matt Wells and staff to discuss expanded opportunities for better interagency cooperation and coordination.

Working Group on House Bill 894

- ◆ Staff from VDOF's Forestland Conservation Program attended the first meeting of the working group on House Bill 894 (Section 3). This working group was formed to help the Virginia Cooperative Extension develop a map or repository of prime farmland and forestland in the Commonwealth, principally for guiding clean energy development. VDOF was joined by representatives from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Energy, American Farmlands Trust, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The discussion included existing map products that could contribute to the effort, including VDOF's Forest Conserve Value map. The first meeting of the subcommittee, charged with developing recommendations, is being scheduled for early August. The working group's report on the repository is due to the General Assembly by Dec. 1.

Reforestation of Timberlands Program

- ◆ For the 2023 Fiscal Year (FY), the VDOF-managed Reforestation of Timberlands Program has a total of \$3 million budgeted for landowner incentives. This increase is due in part to larger than anticipated

carry-over funding from FY 2021, and a rebounding amount of forest products tax collected. Since its record high in 2018, forest products tax collection has decreased slightly each year. However, in 2021, collections increased by more than \$125,000.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation's Board of Trustees

- ◆ VDOF staff recently attended the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation's (VLCF) Board of Trustees meeting. During the meeting the board announced the opening of the FY 2023 VLCF Grant Round, which includes nearly \$15 million available for conservation projects (easements and fee simple acquisitions of land), including \$2.8 million in the forestland preservation category.

Winchester Urban Wood Program

- ◆ VDOF coordinated a field visit to Harrisonburg's Urban Wood Program for representatives from the City of Winchester, which included the city's arborist and grounds maintenance manager, as well as Harrisonburg's green space manager, pollinator program manager, and Public Works staff. Winchester has expressed interest in an urban wood program to better utilize its municipal wood resources. The group developed a plan which includes Winchester's dead and dying maple trees impacted by the spotted lanternfly. Lumber from these trees will be used for city projects and shared with wood education programs at various schools. Some of the maple logs will likely be sold to local wood users at public auction.

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission's Regional Environmental Committee

- ◆ VDOF staff gave a presentation to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission's Regional Environmental Committee on the Resilient Coastal Forests of Virginia. The presentation focused on the Resilient Coastal Forests of Virginia report, which covers the findings of a two-year project funded by VDOF and the U.S. Forest Service. The Green Infrastructure Center led the study and report creation, which included forests within the York River Watershed. The report includes threats to forested land, mitigation strategies, the importance of coastal forests and VDOF's community forestry programs. Approximately 60 people were in attendance.

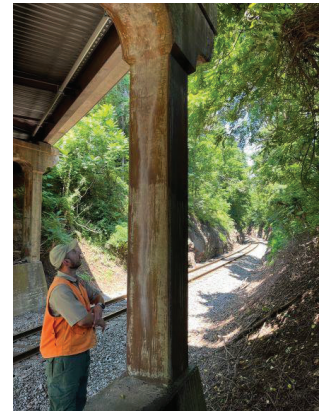
Dendrology, Forest Ecology and Management Field Class

- ◆ VDOF Central Region staff met at the Charlotte State Forest in Charlotte County with 19 trainees from the Southern Piedmont Master Naturalists to impart a Dendrology, Forest Ecology and Management field class. The class covered a wide variety of hands-on learning including tree diversity, distribution, taxonomy and identification, the role of trees in Virginia ecosystems, threats and issues affecting forest in Virginia, forest health issues such as invasive species, insects and disease, climate change, and the role of Virginia's state agencies in managing public and private forests. (pictured)



Surveys for Spotted Lanternfly

- ◆ VDOF staff met with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services inspectors in Culpeper to help survey for spotted lanternfly, recently found in this area. Efforts are underway to determine the size and extent of the population. (Pictured is Ed Furlow searching Ailanthus trees near a rail line.)



Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Sabina Dhungana (utilization and marketing [U&M] program manager) called a meeting with regional forestry leaders to discuss the Timber Products Output (TPO) survey response rate and how we need to work together to wrap up and get a better response from the forest industry in the state for our TPO data collection. Some action items are in place to execute data collection process improvements and will be executing those steps with our field representatives soon.
- ◆ Lara Johnson (urban & community forestry [U&CF] program manager) proctored the ISA Certified Arborist exam at VDOF Headquarters.
- ◆ Lara Johnson met with representatives from the Town of Abingdon and Emory and Henry College to discuss the urban heat island focused planting project happening this fall in the region.
- ◆ Lara Johnson attended the Clinch River Valley Initiative steering committee meeting in Tazewell to discuss the newly for Med nonprofit, get updates on the new state park and access points along the River.

Forest Resource Management

- ◆ On July 14, Amanda Conrad (forest health technician) traveled to three counties East of Charlottesville to survey for Beech Leaf Disease. Surveys were performed in public lands with high concentrations of Beech Trees in Fluvanna, Spotsylvania, and Louisa Counties. Beech leaves were inspected for dark banding between veins, wilting and general dieback associated with the disease. No symptoms were observed in these surveys.
- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) and Katlin DeWitt met with Rappahannock and Potomac work area staff to discuss the VDOF forest health program and how field staff and program staff can work together. Visits to other field offices will resume after the district reorganization is complete.
- ◆ Forest Management, Forest Research, and Forest Health staff met at New Kent on Thursday, July 14 to visit potential field trip sites for the Forest Management Academy that will take place in September.

Agency Lands

- ◆ Ones Bitoki (tree improvement forester) prepared and led a 3-day tree improvement intern orientation session for Dominic Chirico (forest technician), Chris McClellan and Evan Richardson (area foresters). Topics included: 1) basic genetics, selection & gains, 2) geographic variation in loblolly pine, 3) breeding strategies and mating designs, 4) female & male flower development and stimulation, 5) pollen handling, 6) controlled pollination procedures, 7) progeny testing procedures, 8) establishment and management of production orchards, 9) the Performance Rating System (PRS), and 10) deployment silviculture and economics. Jeff Stout (tree improvement technician) led the field sessions demonstrating the pole saws, chainsaws and chipper as applied to pruning / roguing operations.

Eastern Region

- ◆ Heather Tuck (regional fire specialist) led the Five Forks Work Area and Brian Lacey (regional resource forester) in a FiResponse Incident Response Scenario as a part of their July team meeting. The scenario was aimed at using the map and log features of the FiResponse app. Team members were dispatched to the mock incident with a specific assignment and asked to use FiResponse exclusively. Despite some technology glitches, the team was able to navigate to the incident, use the map to mark ICP, access roads, planned fire lines and actual firelines and use the log to track events within the scenario. Some of the Murphy's Law assignments included a transport break down, a dozer throwing a track and FiResponse not operable. Thanks to Heather Tuck for putting together a fun and useful training.
- ◆ Recently, the Grounds Supervisor for the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center in Chesterfield County, contacted Richard Reuse (area forester). The property has a 2-acre stand of bamboo that was dying and appeared as if it had been sprayed with herbicide. Many of the 25 foot tall stems were bent over. Upon closer inspection, the tops of the bamboo were heavily laden with seed. Chesterfield County Cooperative Extension received two similar complaints from landowners with dying bamboo. An internet search revealed that some species of bamboo flower once after many decades of growth. Once the bamboo flowers and produces seed, the entire mature stand dies. One theory is that seed production severely stresses the bamboo causing it to die. Another theory is the mature plants die in order to provide better growing conditions for seedlings. In Asia, the mass flowering events result in rodent population spikes since they are attracted to the large quantity of seed. The below links provide information of the subject.

<https://www.amusingplanet.com/2015/09/the-mysterious-phenomenon-of-bamboo.html>

<https://www.guadubamboo.com/blog/bamboo-flowering-habits>

- ◆ Daren Williams hosted his first regional UTV training course for a small group of Eastern Region staff. Daren's recent certification as a UTV instructor has allowed the region to begin training all field staff on safe UTV operation at the newly developed New Kent Forestry Center UTV course. (Pictured).



Central Region

- ◆ Drew Arnn (senior area forester) participated in the EXCITE: Exploring Careers through Industry Teacher Externship program in Pittsylvania County. Four local teachers spent time learning about careers in Forestry and how students need to prepare for Natural Resource professions.
- ◆ Jim McGlone (urban forest conservationist) and Lindsey Long (community forest specialist) met with staff from the City of Manassas Park and walked the city's new gateway development. Jim and Lindsey talked about the use of trees in community development, sightlines, street lighting, and maintenance. They suggested that future city contracts specify that tree planting only be done between October 1 and May 1, not in July as was observed.
- ◆ Jim McGlone conducted the last of three pruning field days for the Arlington and Alexandria Tree Stewards. This was the final class to train Tree Stewards in pruning young trees. Graduates of this class will be allowed to prune street trees in Arlington and will help train future Tree Stewards in pruning.

Western Region

- ◆ Russell Proctor (region fire specialist) partnered with Brad Wright, Pulaski County Emergency services coordinator, to conduct a Fire-wise tour for the Master Gardener College being held at Virginia Tech.

The tour was attended by 21 Master Gardener Facilitators in training. The tour started at Coal Bank Ridge, a Fire-wise Community of excellence, to look at Fire-wise landscaping and defensible space implementation. The next stop was to look at a prescribed burn conducted this spring on USDA Forest Service (USFS) property adjoining several Fire-wise communities. The group was able to look at the effects of the burn and discuss "good fire". The tour generated a lot of good discussion about the topics as well as some surprised reactions at how good the prescribed burn looked and the amount of forage coming back.

- ◆ Collin Sapp (forest technician) and Greg Estoll (natural resource manager) worked with the Clinch Valley Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) as well as Clinch River State Park staff to provide a Kids in the Creek program to about 30 summer school students along the banks of the Clinch River in Honaker, VA. VDOF taught about the importance of trees, especially along waterways, and differences between various trees. It was a beautiful day and the kids got to go swimming in the river after the program.
- ◆ During the week of July 16 Emily Wotton (forest technician) participated in VASWCD's Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech. Forty-one campers spent the week learning about conservation; topics included watersheds, forestry, wildlife, agriculture, and careers involving these subjects.

Public Information

- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator) worked with the Society of American Foresters – Skyline Chapter and Virginia Cooperative Extension to hold a two-day Teaching Trees training in Louisa County. This specialized Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop covered three PLT modules. It included a forestry tour, portable sawmill and papermaking demos, and lots of field study activities. Nine middle and high school teachers participated. Funding was provided by a grant from Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation, and consulting forester Matt Dowdy hosted one day of the workshop on his property.
- ◆ Ellen Powell gave a virtual presentation on oak decline to the Virginia Native Plant Society's John Clayton Chapter.

News Links

- ◆ [Forestry officials confirm EAB detected in Gloucester County - \(cbs19news.com\)](#)
- ◆ [Invasive beetle that kills trees found in Gloucester County | WRIC ABC 8News](#)
- ◆ [Enviva helps protect tract of Nottoway River corridor](#)
- ◆ [Gloucester County confirmed as latest site of Emerald Ash Borer](#)
- ◆ [A COMING REVOLUTION IN THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY](#)
- ◆ [Creative Markets & Opportunities for Southern Timberland Owners](#)