



**August 8, 2022**

## **Upcoming Events**

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### ***Landowner Legacy Planning Workshops Begin August 26***

- ◆ VDOF and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) will host in-person and virtual workshops this summer and fall to help landowners with the legacy planning process. Generation NEXT, a collaboration between VDOF and VCE, helps Virginia landowners make plans to keep forests intact, in forest, and in family. The workshops will take place in South Boston, Galax, and New Kent and provide useful information and future planning techniques. Families pay a single fee to participate. [Read more in VDOF's Aug. 1, news release.](#)

### ***Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat – Southeast Virginia – September 9-10***

### ***Project Learning Tree Workshop for Educators – September 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**

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### ***Andrew Fotinos and Ed Stoots – Thank You!***

- ◆ Andrew Fotinos (forest conservation specialist) and Ed Stoots (state lands manager) met with Sandy Riepe and Lyn Hill, trustees of the Daniel tract acquisition to Charlotte State Forest, to discuss the appraised value of the property. Appraised at \$595,000, the approximately 322-acre tract adjoins Phase 3 of the TCF / Stanley acquisition that is occurring simultaneously. These additions together will add approximately 682 acres to the Charlotte State Forest without using any General Fund monies. Lyn Hill sent the following email after the meeting:
  - "Thank you, Ed, for the illusive map, and more importantly, for the conscientious work you and Andrew have done to bring us closer to our mutual goal of adding the Daniel tract to the Charlotte State Forest. As a steward of the property inherited by my grandfather's descendants, I couldn't be more pleased knowing that the final tract held by the trust will remain forested for generations to come. How timely it turned out to be that the dissolution of the Daniel Trust coincided with the VDOF's phased development of Charlotte State Forest. What a win-win. Sending best wishes to Andrew in his transition and looking forward to continued contact with you as we aim for a closing in the last quarter of this year."

## Employee News

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### *Welcome to VDOF*

- ◆ Logan McGlothlin joined the Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) team as a field assistant in the Western Region. Logan has a B.S. from UVA-Wise. He spent his first day doing on-the-job training with Joey Collard (forest inventory specialist) & John Pemberton (forest inventory manager) in Russell County. With Logan's hiring, the VDOF FIA program is now fully staffed.

### *Leaving VDOF*

- ◆ August 18 will be Andrew Fotinos' (forest conservation specialist) last day at VDOF. Andrew has been an invaluable member of the Forestland Conservation Program since late 2015, serving as a Forestland Conservation Specialist and Forest Legacy Program Manager, using his substantial real estate knowledge, organizational skills, and immense work ethic to help landowners conserve forestland across Virginia. While at VDOF, Andrew has helped conserve well over 35,000 acres of land in the Commonwealth, almost a quarter of all the land that the agency has directly protected in its history! We will miss you Andrew, and best of luck in your new adventures.
- ◆ August 25 will be Sarah Parmelee's (forestland conservation coordinator) last day at VDOF. Sarah started at VDOF in 2016, working first as a Riparian Buffer Specialist, then as an Area Forester for Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties, and finally as the Forestland Conservation Coordinator for the Forestland Conservation Program, where she oversaw the stewardship and monitoring of the agency's nearly 200 conservation easements. Sarah's impressive knowledge of forestry, organizational skills, and collegiality will be greatly missed. Best of luck in your new horizons, Sarah!

### *County Fair support*

- ◆ If you need hands-on activities for a county fair table, we have some materials for you! Please contact [Ellen Powell](#) (conservation education coordinator) at least 2 weeks prior to the fair to discuss options and arrange for delivery of items.

## Last Week

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### *VDOF Firefighter Deployment Update*

- ◆ VDOF's first crew of 16, who deployed to Texas on July 2 with five type-6 engines (brush trucks), has safely returned to Virginia. The second crew will return to Virginia later this week, while the third has begun an additional rotation to help the people of Texas. VDOF crews have remained busy in Texas, responding to new wildfires and containing the blazes of larger fires where necessary. Due to the extreme drought conditions over most of the state, it's likely that the Texas Forest Service will need a fourth rotation of personnel next week. In anticipation of this request, VDOF fire managers have rostered a crew.

### *Forest Inventory and Analysis*

- ◆ As reported in the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Quarterly report to the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF), VDOF's FIA program was one of four to exceed federal plot production targets and grant management targets for the quarter ending in June. FIA data provide critical status and trend information to resource managers, policy makers, investors, and the public, through a system of annual resource inventory that covers both public and private forest lands across the U.S.

## White Pine Cone Collection

- ◆ VDOF staff completed white pine cone collection activities at two orchards in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, resulting in 2,220 bushels of cones. The first truck is heading to Southern Seed Company in Georgia for processing, which includes drying, seed extraction, and returning the seeds ready for planting at the VDOF nursery. These efforts are vital to the VDOF nursery as well as for Christmas tree growers.

## Ash Tree Treatment

- ◆ VDOF Forest Health staff met with Shenandoah National Park representatives to treat ash trees around the Loft Mountain Campground in Crozet. There are hundreds of ash trees at this campground, and their loss would change the aesthetics of the area and pose a major risk to campers. Over 30 trees were treated in one day, providing up to three years of protection from the emerald ash borer (EAB). VDOF staff also treated two ash trees at the 173-acre Paul State Forest, located in Rockingham County. Despite being located in an area where EAB has been detected for many years, the trees were still in relatively good condition. VDOF staff also treated two large ash trees at the historic Saluda courthouse. This was the third time the trees have been treated, and they still appear to be in good health. (pictured)



## Wood in Construction Seminar

- ◆ VDOF, in partnership with the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials at Virginia Tech, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Virginia Wood Council (USDA Forest Service), organized and hosted the “Wood in Construction and Beyond – Highlights on Mass Timber Products” seminar in Charlottesville on July 27. The event attracted approximately 50 attendees, primarily made up of architects, engineers, foresters, and researchers. The seminar ended with a tour of the mass timber building owned by Apex Energy, which showcased the innovative building constructed of a mix of glulam and cross-laminated timber in its design.

## Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager), Lara Johnson (U&CF program manager), Katlin Dewitt (forest health specialist), Molly O'Liddy (U&CF partnership coordinator), and Amanda Conrad (EAB program coordinator) hosted a laurel wilt training in Southwest Virginia, reaching participants from 6 different agencies and 3 different states. Laurel wilt was confirmed in Virginia in July of 2021.
- ◆ Sabina Dhungana (utilization & marketing [U&M] program manager) met with Virginia Department of Agricultural Consumer Services (VDACS) international marketing program representatives to discuss marketing materials and use of VDOF expertise for international wood products trade shows. They also shared their interests in making a wood products marketing and promotional video to highlight Virginia’s sustainable forestry and forest products, and to show how two agencies with industry partners can work together on a state marketing product. Further meetings are planned to solidify these topics and ideas to establish a good working relationship between the two agencies, with a goal of better marketing Virginia’s wood products internationally.
- ◆ On July 28, Karl Didier (forestland conservation program manager) gave a presentation to the Blue Ridge Conservation Alliance about VDOF’s conservation easement activities and portfolio. About 15

people attended, including field staff from VDOF and conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the northern part of the Blue Ridge (between Front Royal and Harper's Ferry).

- ◆ Molly O'Liddy (urban & community forestry [U&CF] partnership coordinator), met with representatives from Hampden-Sydney College who participated in the VCIC Urban Heat Island Study in 2021. Students are using the data collected from the study to select planting areas and tree giveaways this coming fall. VDOF will serve as technical advisors on the projects.
- ◆ Lisa Deaton (area forester), Molly O'Liddy, and Cory Swift-Turner (public information specialist) met at the historic Saluda courthouse to treat two large ash trees on public property. This was the third time VDOF had treated the trees, and they looked to be in good health. Ash trees need to be treated with an injection treatment every two years to combat pressure from the Emerald Ash Borer.

### **News Links**

- ◆ [Virginia first responders help Texas crews battle wildfires](#)
- ◆ [New revolution in the construction industry? Skyscrapers made of wood](#)