



August 15, 2022

Upcoming Events

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

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

[Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat – Southeast Virginia](#) – September 9 - 10

[Forest Management Academy – East](#) - September 13 - September 15

- ◆ 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

Jim McGlone – Job Well Done!

- ◆ Kudos to Jim McGlone for receiving a commendation from the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria. The following letter was received from Nora Polmotier, Tree Stewards President of Arlington and Alexandria area:
 - “On behalf of the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria, I’m writing to express our thanks for the tremendous help that Dr. Jim McGlone has provided to our organization through his classroom and field teaching. Jim has been a very valuable resource over the years. He taught several of our classes during the new Tree Steward training this winter, and he recently took responsibility for educating a group of Tree Stewards on proper structural pruning techniques for small trees. This effort will prepare that group of volunteers to be certified by Arlington County to prune park and street trees. Arlington does not have the staff to properly prune all the young trees on county property, and this initiative to expand the opportunities for Tree Stewards should save many trees from major structural problems later in their lives.
 - In appreciation for Jim’s efforts, Tree Stewards over the years have presented Jim with a Tree Steward bandana, a Tree Steward mug and any other swag we had around in an effort to show our appreciation for all he does. This letter is an attempt to let his Department of Forestry colleagues know how valuable Jim is to the volunteers of Northern Virginia who care deeply about the care of our urban forest.”

Employee News

Welcome to VDOF

- ◆ Matias Pineiro has been selected as a forest technician for the Dan River Work Area. Matias has a B.A. in Environmental Policy from the College of William & Mary plus 2 years of natural resource experience, most recently with the Virginia Service and Conservation Corps (DCR). We are excited to have Matias as a part of the VDOF and the Central Region and ask that you provide him a warm welcome when you get the opportunity. He will begin with the agency on August 10.



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.. 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.

News You Can Use

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program

- ◆ The 2022 Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program is accepting applications through September 23. This program exists to encourage government and citizen involvement in long-term and sustained community forestry projects and programs. The RFP, grant application, and budget worksheet can be found on VDOF's [Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program](#). Please share this opportunity with your networks and reach out to Lara Johnson (lara.johnson@dof.virginia.gov) with any questions.

Last Week

\$900,000 Available Through the Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program

- ◆ VDOF has announced the availability of approximately \$900,000 in grant funding through the current cycle of the [Virginia Trees for Clean Water \(VTCW\) Grant Program](#). Supported by the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF), the VTCW Grant Program is designed to improve water quality across Virginia by encouraging tree-planting efforts where they are needed most and raise awareness of their benefits. The VTCW grant program has been expanded this year due to significantly increased funding through the WQIF in an effort to help meet the Chesapeake Bay WIP goals for tree planting.

Beginning Woodland Owners' Retreat

- ◆ The annual [Beginning Woodland Owners' Retreat](#) for Eastern Virginia landowners new to forest land ownership or forest management will be held on September 9-10 at the VDOF New Kent Conference Center near Providence Forge. Sponsored by VDOF, Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia

Forest Landowner Education Program, the retreat will include pine-focused forest management, timber sales, wildlife habitat improvement, tree identification and more. A tour of local properties will showcase forest management in action.

State Forest Timber Sales

- ◆ Three state forest timber sales were held on August 4. Each sale attracted multiple bidders: Cumberland State Forest (five), Big Woods State Forest (three), and Whitney State Forest (two). Total revenue from these timber sales was just over \$407,000. Twenty-five percent of these proceeds will be returned to the localities in lieu of property tax payments from the state forest lands.

Hardwood Crop Tree Marking in Spotsylvania

- ◆ On August 3, VDOF staff completed hardwood crop tree release marking on a 27-acre stand at Oakley Forest Wildlife Management Area in Spotsylvania County. VDOF will work with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources to contract the implementation work on this, and two other similar stands, in the near future.

Virginia Tech Annual Field Day Features Femelschlag Harvest

- ◆ Virginia Tech held their annual field day at the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural and Research Center (McCormick Farm) on August 3. VDOF conducted a timber sale with the farm featuring a Femelschlag harvest, a German technique involving cutting gaps in the forest to assist oak tree regeneration.

Winchester and the Shenandoah Urban Plans

- ◆ VDOF recently completed urban wood management plans for the City of Winchester and the Shenandoah County Department of Parks and Recreation. Using a plan template developed by VDOF's Urban and Community Forestry team, these communities now have detailed guidance for initiating their respective urban wood programs for the improved utilization of wood resources.

Declining Oaks in Shenandoah and Frederick Counties

- ◆ VDOF forest health program staff met with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services plant pathologists to look at two sites with declining oaks in Shenandoah and Frederick counties. Site factors and evidence of secondary pests negatively impacting the oaks were observed, such as the two-lined chestnut borer and armillaria root rot. The pathologists collected samples to test for fungal pathogens that could also be contributing to the decline.

Invasive Wavyleaf Grass

- ◆ Invasive wavyleaf grass, an aggressive invasive plant, was confirmed in the woods near VDOF headquarters in July. Wavyleaf grass is relatively new to Virginia, so local control and eradication is still possible. The patches were treated and staff will continue to monitor the site for follow-up work next spring. VDOF has been involved in outreach efforts to increase awareness for wavyleaf grass and has passed small federal grants to groups for monitoring and treatment. VDOF will continue to identify additional funding for more treatment projects. You can learn more about wavyleaf grass here: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/document/fswavy.pdf>

Forestland Conservation

- ◆ Rachel Harris (utilization & marketing [U&M] specialist) and Sabina Dhungana (U&M program manager) participated in a call with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and a representative from King George County in regard to Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zones and viable options for a grant.

- ◆ Jackie Newton (staff accountant) & John Pemberton (FIA program manager) completed and submitted the grant package for supplemental stimulus funds to be used to increase the number of staff for VDOF's Forest Inventory Analysis program in order to increase plot production.

Central Region

- ◆ Patrick Murphy (senior area forester) and Russell Schmidt (forest technician) took Smokey Bear to Farmville's National Night Out last week. While working the crowd, Smokey handed out coloring books and bracelets to youth from the Farmville area. He posed for dozens of pictures with citizens, and the photos have appeared all over social media.

Eastern Region

- ◆ Alanna Ostrowski (technician), Eli Podyma (community forest specialist), and Delaney Beattie (riparian buffer specialist) represented VDOF during National Night Out at West End Manor Civic Association. Alanna, Eli, and Delaney spoke with attendees about VDOF operations, highlighting a James River Buffer Program (JRBP)-funded planting that had been installed for the Civic Association.
- ◆ Andrew Matteson (area forester), Paul Taylor (forest technician) and Matthew Coleman (senior area forester-not pictured) participated in the 2022 National Night Out event on the evening of Tuesday August 2nd at King George County High School. Many youth and adults stopped at the VDOF table to ask and answer questions pertaining to the VDOF and forestry in general. Engine 609 was on display and the event was well attended with local organizers estimating a crowd in excess of 700 people despite temperatures still well into the 90's. Several other law enforcement and public service organizations had booths and vehicles there to see up close. (pictured)



State Forests

- ◆ The Matthews / Virginia Tech summer interns completed their work this past week by assisting Zach Olinger (state forest manager and education specialist) in cruising a sale on the Channels State Forest, as well as cruising the next sale on the Ewing Mountain Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) with Zach & Ed Stoots (state lands manager). The interns have enjoyed the work, learned a lot, and helped provide much needed assistance on various projects. Thank you to Paul Digiacommo and Conner Austin!

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ A contractor performed mulching on a portion of the Catawba Hospital Timber Sale #2 in Roanoke County. The facility director had asked if we could tidy up the lower portion of the sale area. Mulching was the answer (pictured). The director's comments were "Thank you, it looks 500% better to have the edges tidy along the roadway." Mulching could be a future practice for some projects in order to prepare sites for planting that have no merchantable timber to remove. Cost to treat the area was \$7,600, so it is not an inexpensive option if being considered.

