



**September 5, 2022**

## **Upcoming Events**

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**[Forest Management Academy – East - September 13 – 15 \(Employee Only\)](#)**

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

**[Project Learning Tree Workshop for Educators – September 15](#)**

**[2022 Fall Virtual Certified Prescribed Burn Managers Course – September 26 – 29](#)**

**[Forest Management Academy – West – September 27 – 29 \(Employee Only\)](#)**

- ◆ 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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### ***John Rose – Great Job!!***

- ◆ John Rose (forest technician) was passing a local hardware/lumber supply business in the City of Suffolk and observed an elderly man walking up the steps to the business. He saw the man lose his balance and fall, striking the steps. John pulled into the business to assist the man. Before he exited his truck he called on his City Fire/Rescue radio to alert Suffolk Fire and Rescue of the incident.
  - When John got to the man he already had a pool of blood under him and was unconscious. He updated the responding Fire/Rescue Squad en route from the station a few miles away. The wound was more than could be contained with our truck's first aid kits so he and the business owner improvised to control the blood flow. Rescue arrived shortly after and immediately transported the man to a trauma hospital in Norfolk, bypassing the local emergency hospital that operates at a lower level.
  - John talked with the owner of the business after the patient was taken away and learned that as a contractor supplier, most of their clients are served in the very early morning hours with few walk-ins after noon. It is likely this man would not have been discovered for hours. At the rate of blood loss, if John had not happened to see him fall, it's likely the man would not have survived.
  - Later in the week, John checked in with the Suffolk Fire/Rescue and learned that after several days of emergency care, the man is now recovering from the fall in the hospital.
  - We never know when we will be called on to assist in an emergency response. Fortunately for this elderly citizen, John has kept current with his First Aid through his VFD and the Department of Forestry, and had the tools to quickly get EMS on the way, potentially saving this man's life.

## Last Week

### *Virginia Firefighter Deployment Update*

- ◆ VDOF personnel and equipment committed to assist the Texas Forest Service have arrived back home. During the last two months, 64 full-time and part-time firefighters mobilized to provide direct fire suppression response in Texas during drought conditions. While mobilized, VDOF crews totaled approximately 18,240 hours and experienced no significant injuries during four two-week rotations.

### *Record Production at VDOF's Augusta Nursery*

- ◆ VDOF's Augusta Nursery has completed its annual inventory and the agency reports record seedling production numbers this year. Thanks to additional funding provided by the General Assembly last fiscal year, approximately 3.7 million conifer and 2.7 million hardwood seedlings will be available for purchase this fall. This represents an increase of 63 percent, or almost 2.5 million more seedlings than last year.

### *USDA Chestnut Project Meeting*

- ◆ VDOF hosted the annual meeting of the USDA's multi-state NE-1833 project focused on the American chestnut tree, with the goal of reestablishing it in eastern US forests. Following a welcome from VDOF State Forester Rob Farrell, attendees representing Mississippi to Maine heard presentations, reviewed the current and planned research program of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), discussed ongoing efforts to identify and breed strains of chestnut resistant to disease, and received updates from TACF state chapters. TACF is a nonprofit conservation, education and scientific organization made up of 16 state chapters working to restore the American chestnut to eastern forests. A field tour of the VDOF's Lesesne State Forest, where more than 50 years of blight-resistance breeding and research efforts have occurred, was included. (pictured)



### *Urban Heat Island Mitigation Project*

- ◆ Last week, VDOF Urban and Community Forestry staff coordinated with the City of Richmond and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in southside Richmond near Westover Hills Boulevard to remove 175 feet of sidewalk, as part of the City's campaign to reduce urban heat islands by planting more trees. The location was identified in a heat islands study facilitated by the University of Richmond (U of R) and will serve as proof of concept for future projects. U of R Associate Professor of Geography, Environment and Sustainability Dr. Todd Lookingbill and four environmental studies students observed the sidewalk removal and will assist with the tree planting this fall. This project was funded as part of the Virginia Trees for Clean Water Program. (Pictured)



## ***Ash Tree Treatment Efforts Continue***

- ◆ VDOF staff continue to treat rare species of ash trees threatened by the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect. VDOF staff worked with natural resources staff from Langley Air Force Base to treat 18 pumpkin ash trees in Hampton on Aug. 22. VDOF also worked with Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and Fairfax County staff to treat 10 black ash trees at the Thompson Wildlife Management Area in Fauquier County. Rare in Virginia, these pumpkin and black ash trees are now safeguarded for three years. These efforts are part of wider statewide treatment campaign under way across Virginia to protect ash trees.

## ***Forestland Conservation***

- ◆ John Pemberton (forest inventory analysis [FIA] program manager) completed and transmitted the remaining Urban FIA plots in Fairfax, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties. This completes the NOVA Urban FIA plots for the 2022 field season.
- ◆ The 14th edition of the VA Urban Wood Newsletter was published and distributed to 337 recipients. The current edition, focused on firewood production and marketing, also features service provider training opportunities, and marketing tips for urban wood businesses. The newsletter is published by the VA Urban Wood Group in partnership with Trees VA.
- ◆ Rachel Harris (utilization & marketing [U&M] specialist) attended the International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta, Georgia. She was able to network and see the latest the forest industry has to offer as well as attend sessions pertaining to marketing and business management to assist the industry here in Virginia with challenges they may be facing.
- ◆ Sabina Dhungana (U&M program manager) and Bobby Robertson (forest technician) visited Brodnax Lumber Company in Brodnax. It was a great opportunity to meet with mill owners and managers, tour the sawmill, learn about their raw material needs, supplies, the distance they travel to get the required raw materials, and workforce issues, and gain insights on market trends for their products. Staff talked about the Timber Product Output (TPO) survey and educated the company about the importance of filling out the survey, as Brodnax was one of the mills included in this year's TPO survey sample from the USDA Forest Service (USFS).

## ***Forest Resource Management***

- ◆ Amanda Conrad (forest health technician) checked spotted lanternfly (SLF) traps placed at eight locations around Albemarle County. No SLF were found in any of these traps, which will continue to be checked in September. SLF has been confirmed in Albemarle (now a quarantine county in Virginia), so checking these traps helps to determine the spread within the known infested area.

## ***State Forest***

- ◆ VDOF sold approximately 75 acres of timber on the Dragon Run State Forest, containing over 5,000 tons of mostly pine sawtimber and 2,500 tons of pulpwood. Two bids were received, with the high bid from Mike Gibson & Sons Logging at \$165,779.

## State-Owned Lands

- ◆ Staff completed site prep spraying on Bland Corrections and Virginia Tech McCormick Farm properties using Aerial Crop Care Solutions as the contractor out of Woodlawn VA. (Pictured)
- ◆ VDOF completed the third year treatment of kudzu and bittersweet invasive species treatment on the College of William & Mary - Ash Lawn Property. Some additional work will occur later in September.



## Eastern Region

- ◆ On August 18, Five Forks area foresters Cody Noblitt and Doug Audley assisted Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Small Game Project Leader, Marc Puckett, with installing fire lines for a planned understory burn in a hardwood stand on the Amelia WMA. This stand is being managed with the intent of creating an “oak savannah” wildlife habitat. While providing DWR with assistance, this project also provided Cody with some operational experience on the dozer. This area will be a featured stop on the October 7 VCE Fall Bus Tour, so it is hoped the burn can be conducted before the tour.