



**October 10, 2022**

## Upcoming Events

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### [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 employee only events.

## News You Can Use

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### *Don't Move Firewood Campaign*

- ◆ This month, VDOF joins forestry agencies across the U.S. to raise awareness about invasive insects through the “Don't Move Firewood” campaign. VDOF and partners are working together to push messaging on invasive insect spread through the transport of firewood and to promote buying firewood locally, or gathering near campsites (when allowed). VDOF is coordinating a related news release with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for this week.

## Last Week

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### *Governor Visits VDOF Headquarters*

- ◆ On September 30, Governor Youngkin, Chief of Staff Jeff Goettman, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr and cabinet staff visited VDOF headquarters to meet employees, and discuss agency operations and priorities with the senior leadership team.

### *State Fair Virginia's Outdoor Experiences*

- ◆ VDOF's State Forest and Eastern Region staff participated in a one-day “Outdoor Experiences” event at the Virginia State Fair on Oct. 1. VDOF joined other Virginia natural resource agencies to provide fair attendees examples of available outdoor opportunities as well as the recreational potential of Virginia's state forests. In addition, staff brought Smokey Bear to the fair to share a message of fire prevention and safety.



### *State Forester*

- ◆ On October 3, State Forester Rob Farrell presented at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture annual meeting in Richmond. Farrell discussed the benefit and importance of trees to human health and the increasing threats to our forests. The discussion included current issues in Virginia, solutions under development, and new opportunities.

## Western Forest Management Academy

- ◆ The VDOF Western Forest Management Academy was held on Sept. 27-29 at Mountain Lake Biological Station in Giles County. Part of the University of Virginia, the Station is situated on Salt Pond Mountain. Approximately 50 participated in the



training, including representatives from Virginia Tech, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and several U.S. Forest Service (USFS) personnel. Guest lecturers included USFS Director of the Southern Research Station in Ashville Dr. Tara Keyser and Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at the University of Tennessee Dr. Craig Harper. Attendees also took part in field trips to nearby conserved private forestland and the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest. Thanks go to the staff at the Station, VDOF Forest Management Branch/HR personnel, and western region staff for lots of work in planning and executing this important learning (and fun) event.

## Fire & Emergency Response

- ◆ The Certified Prescribed Burn Managers Course took place Sept. 26-29. The class provides a professional certification for individuals interested in completing prescribed burns for ecological, wildlife or forest management benefits. Seventy-four students completed the certification, representing the VDOF, Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), private consulting foresters, forestry students from Virginia Tech and University of Tennessee, and representatives from the US Department of Defense and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fire branch would also like to extend a special thanks to Patty Nylander (watershed stewardship specialist), Chad Stover (regional fire specialist) and Lindsey Curtin (USFS) for serving as instructors this year.

## Virginia Invasive Species as Resource Inquiry

- ◆ VDOF, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service Products Lab in Madison, Wisconsin, are assisting Urban Evolutions (<https://urbanevolutions.com/>) with a Virginia resource information inquiry. Based in Appleton, the urban and reclaimed wood company is interested in purchasing Virginia invasive species logs (such as tree-of-heaven and Siberian elm) for products. Information gathering continues to determine the potential volume and consistency of supplies from some of the larger urban areas in the Commonwealth.

## Communications

- ◆ Ellen Powell (conservation education coordinator) attended a training on forestry interpretation at historic sites, held at James Madison's Montpelier. This training will help with setting up a similar Master Naturalist-led program at the request of James Monroe's Highland.
- ◆ Ellen Powell assisted with the Virginia Tech Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour held in Powhatan, Amelia, and Henrico counties. Kathleen Ogilvy and Doug Audley (area foresters) were among the presenters, which included staff from Virginia Cooperative Extension and Department of Wildlife Resources, a private landowner, and a local urban wood business.

## State Forest

- ◆ State Forest staff held a fall meeting at historic Natural Bridge Hotel & Conference Center on September 29 - 30. Presentations included Wildlife and Forestry - Silvicultural Operations to Foster Beneficial Wildlife Habitat; Virginia Natural Heritage Program - Implications and Opportunities for State Forests; Appalachian Conservation Corps - Opportunities for Use on State Forest, State-Owned Lands, and Good Neighbor Authority Projects. Discussions included quota hunting as implemented by DWR, and the new SFI Certification standards for 2022. DCRR State Park staff also led a tour of Natural Bridge State Park. (Pictured are the State Forest staff present).



## Eastern Region

- ◆ A new tractor operator course has been completed at the New Kent Forestry Center. Daren Williams (mechanic) and Kenny Midgett (forest technician) worked with Darwin Rhodes (Shenandoah technician) to construct the three-part course. This new course provides a year-round training area for the development of tractor operator skills for full-time and part-time employees. (Pictured)

