



November 21, 2022

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Visit <https://dof.virginia.gov/events/> for public events and <https://dof.virginia.gov/events/category/employee-only/> for employee only events.

Employee Spotlight

Ashley Mock – Job Well Done!

- ◆ Potomac Watershed Field Representative Hallie Harriman from Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) sent the below message in regard to Ashley Mock’s (bay watershed specialist) job well done.
 - “Ashley Mock assisted with a Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) volunteer planting on Monday, October 31 at Long Branch Historic House and Farm. She has been with the project since the beginning and wrote the original planting plan earlier this year. On Monday she demonstrated how to properly plant trees/shrubs to two shifts of volunteers. She worked side by side with volunteers the entire day and provided great comments to their numerous questions. Through the mud and afternoon rain, she stuck through it.

Myself, PEC, and Long Branch staff all very much appreciate Ashley's time, expertise, and easy going personality. I'm looking forward to working with her on future projects throughout Clarke County.”

Employee News

Congratulations – Andrew Vinson

- ◆ Congratulations to Andrew Vinson on his promotion to Water Quality Engineer for the Western Region. Andrew has been with VDOF since 2018 as a Water Quality Specialist. Prior to joining VDOF he served as the SHARP logger program coordinator with Virginia Cooperative Extension. Andrew holds a bachelor’s degree in Forestry from Clemson University and a master’s degree in Forest Operations from Virginia Tech.

Welcome to VDOF

- ◆ Welcome to John Habel, our new VDOF Chief Human Capital Officer. He will start on November 25. John currently serves as a regional HR manager for Virginia Department of Health. He has had a varied HR career with experience in private industry as well as at UVA. John has a BA from University of Central Florida and an MBA from DeVry University. He lives in Stuarts Draft.



News You Can Use

2022 Employee Photo Contest

- ◆ Thank you to all employees who participated in our 2022 employee photo contest! We received some great photos for use in agency educational and promotional materials. These photos will help us tell the story of Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and forestry in Virginia. You've likely already seen many employee photos appearing in the 2023 calendar; look for more to appear in future materials as well. We hope you'll continue to send us your best photos to help us tell the VDOF story.
 - Congratulations to all winners! View our winners and their winning photos <https://youtu.be/XwDXT6W2dHc>.
 - Start collecting your best photos for the 2023 contest. [View contest details on the Intranet](#).

2023 USFS Casual Hire/AD Enrollment Dates

- ◆ The sign-up period for the 2023 season will be in January. Be on the lookout for the invitations for new and returning VDOF AD's and the related paperwork requirements. There will also be a mandatory webinar training for all VDOF AD's in April of 2023. More information will follow.

Last Week

VDOF Forest Inventory Exceeds Targets

- ◆ In the FIA quarterly report to the Southern Group of State Foresters, VDOF's Forest Inventory program was one of two states (of the 13 southern states) to exceed state production and grant management targets for the quarter ending on Sept. 30.

Urban Forestry Efforts in Richmond

- ◆ VDOF assisted Richmond City Parks, Groundworks RVA, Southside ReLeaf, and community volunteers to plant 47 large trees on 10 acres in the Davee Gardens neighborhood of Southside Richmond. Plans include planting 13 additional trees in the coming weeks. This effort will help increase urban canopy in one of Richmond's hottest areas. In order to make this project possible, VDOF located vacant tree wells in advance, selected appropriate species, acquired necessary city permits, and helped nonprofit partners source the trees. VDOF staff also helped with the tree plantings, coordinated and educated volunteers on proper planting techniques, and conducted outreach with homeowners to respond to community questions and concerns.



Roanoke Valley Urban Forest Council Meeting

- ◆ VDOF staff attended a virtual Roanoke Valley Urban Forest Council meeting to discuss the 2023 Roanoke Workshop, arbor day plans, tree stewards, and greenway development in the region.

Trees Virginia Board Meeting

- ◆ VDOF attended a Trees Virginia Board meeting last week to discuss plans for the upcoming year, budget revisions, IRA funding, and tree stewardship.

VCU Industrial Design Urban Wood Presentation

- ◆ VDOF's Utilization and Marketing team partnered with the Richmond Department of Parks and local wood artisan Alicia Dietz (www.aliciadietzstudios.com) to give an urban wood presentation for a VCU Industrial Design class. The 20 undergrads learned about the Virginia Urban Wood program, urban wood programs at other Virginia universities, VDOF/VCU collaborative urban forestry projects, and information on managing a local urban wood business. The indoor session was followed by a sawmill demonstration at Forest Hill Park in Richmond.

Eastern Region

- ◆ The Capital District, with support from Five Forks and several part-time firefighters, assisted Dennis Gaston (state forests forester) with opening new trails at the Chesterfield State Forest. The district used this as an opportunity to exercise equipment and get reacquainted with part-timers. Thanks to Rich Reuse (area forester) for setting up this opportunity. (pictured)



Western Region

- ◆ Brian Ledford (area forester) and Joe Rossetti (hardwood habitat initiative coordinator) assisted with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Fall Forestry Bus Tour in Smyth County. The first stop was hosted by the USDA Forest Service (USFS) at a 15-year-old northern red and white oak progeny test and seed orchard. The trees had just received their first thinning and may eventually produce seed for USFS nurseries. The second stop was hosted by Joe and Brian to discuss upland hardwood management. Techniques to initiate oak regeneration were discussed, and the participants experienced a 30-year-old clearcut of oaks that had regenerated mostly to yellow-poplar, Fraser magnolia, and black birch.
- ◆ Jon Perry (forest technician) was recently conducting a harvest inspection when the logging operator inquired about the usefulness and capabilities of the handheld GPS unit he was using. After their discussion, the operator purchased a GPS to map/calculate stand acreage and to mark/navigate to waypoints. The operator was struggling with using the GPS unit after purchasing it, so Jon spent an afternoon with the operator providing training on the unit and how it could be effectively used for harvest planning.
- ◆ Collin Sapp (forest technician) provided a fire training for the Russell County Appalachian Community Corrections Alternative Program (ACCAP) Center. Twelve officers and 58 probationers were trained and are now ready to be dispatched locally for wildfires.

