



March 30, 2023

Upcoming Events

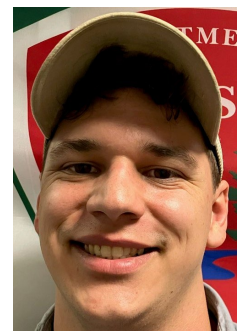
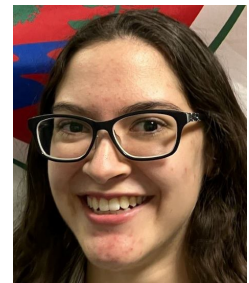
[2023 Virginia Interagency Wildland Fire Academy – May 24 - 28](#)

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

Employee News

Welcome to VDOF

- ◆ Melina Cienski has been hired as a community forestry specialist in the Rappahannock District. Melina has a B.S. in biology with coursework in conservation and ecology from the College of William & Mary, plus 10 months of natural resource experience with DCR. She is also a certified member of Virginia Master Naturalists. Melina began with VDOF on March 27. Please provide Melina with a warm welcome to the Central Region when you get a chance.
- ◆ VDOF welcomes Logan McGlothlin to the Western Region's Headwaters District. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from UVA's college at Wise. Logan will be transitioning to a forest technician role from his current position as a Forestry Inventory and Analysis assistant. He has also served as a part-time wildland fire fighter in the Western Region over the past couple of seasons.



News You Can Use

Camp Woods & Wildlife Counselor Recruitment Bonus!

- ◆ This year's Camp Woods & Wildlife will be held June 19-23 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox. VDOF employees who enjoy working with teens are encouraged to apply — we are in critical need of counselors! It may go without saying, but our work never stops, and certainly won't slow down during camp. **As an incentive, staff who work as counselors this year will**

receive a one-time bonus of \$500. The staff application (Form 13.06) can be found on the VDOF Intranet: <https://dof.virginia.gov/employee-access/employee-forms/>. **If interested, please clear attendance with your supervisor and return your completed form to Ellen Powell (ellen.powell@dof.virginia.gov) by April 17.** Contact Ellen with any questions.

Last Week

New Director of The Nature Conservancy Announced

- ◆ This week, Bettina Ring was announced as the next Virginia State Director of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a global conservation organization. Ring was formerly Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and VDOF State Forester. Prior to joining TNC, Ring served as Chief Sustainability and Diversity Officer at the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Biochar Webinar and Demonstration

- ◆ VDOF, along with U.S. Biochar Initiative, hosted the first-ever biochar introduction webinar in Virginia. Approximately 60 people attended the session. The presentation highlighted biochar market promotion, demonstration, activities from Virginia and biochar markets and trends.
- Also, a third biochar production demonstration was conducted at the Catawba State Hospital to introduce participants to using logging residues for biochar production. VDOF joined participants from the U.S. Forest Service, Catawba State Hospital and Virginia Tech's Catawba Sustainability Center to view the CharBoss unit demonstration. This collaborative project was sponsored by VDOF's Forest Utilization and Marketing and Urban and Community Forestry teams, the USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations program, and Air Burners, Inc.

Speyside Bourbon Stave Mill

- ◆ On Tuesday, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr and VDOF State Forester Rob Farrell participated in a tour of the Speyside Bourbon Stave Mill located in Millsboro. Michael Harold and Jim McCoy of Speyside hosted the site visit, which was arranged by the Virginia Loggers Association to introduce Delegate Chris Runion to issues facing the forest industry in Virginia. Frank Myers of M.M. Wright Logging and Owen Strickler of Virginia-Carolina Forest Products also participated in the meeting.

2023 Nursery Planting Season Update

- ◆ VDOF's Sussex Nursery has produced, graded and packaged a total of 22,236,000 trees for the 2023 planting season.

VDOF Establishes 204th Conservation Easement

- ◆ VDOF established its 204th conservation easement on a 370-acre Beaver Pond property in Essex County. The easement conserves 355 acres of working forests, the majority of which are considered high forest conservation value, and more than two miles of streams.

Beginning Woodlands Landowner Retreat

- ◆ VDOF staff participated in the Beginning Woodlands Landowner Retreat held at Holiday Lake State Park on March 24. Twenty-seven participants learned about topics such as management planning,

timber sales, wildlife management, and forest health. Outdoor sessions included a tour of Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest and introductions to tree ID and measurement.

Forest Management

- ◆ Lori Chamberlin (forest health program manager) attended the North Midwestern State Forest Alliance Forest Health Committee meeting (virtually). Lori is the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) liaison to this group and gave an update from the SGSF Forest Health Committee, with much of the focus on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation funds and how we are allocating those in the South.

Eastern Region

- ◆ On March 23 and 24, Matthew Coleman (area forester), Paul Taylor (forest technician) and Andrew Matteson (natural resource specialist) attended the Caroline County 4th grade Ag Day. The event was held at the Caroline County Fairgrounds. Fourth grade students from three Caroline County elementary schools visited exhibits and heard presentations from VDOF, Hanover-Caroline Soil Water Conservation District, Farm Service Agency and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.



VDOF's presentation involved fire prevention and suppression as well as an overview of what forestry personnel do on a daily basis. Total student attendance was approximately 330 (pictured).