



June 26, 2023

Upcoming Events

[Fall Fire Academy](#) – September 25 – 29

[2023 Virginia Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Course](#) – October 2 – 15

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

Employee Spotlight

Congratulations – David Powell!

District Forester **David Powell** has been chosen by the Society of American Foresters to receive the 2023 District 8 Presidential Field Forester Award. Founded in 1900, the Society is the premier national organization dedicated to the science and practice of forestry. A graduate of both NC State and Virginia Tech schools of forestry, David has been a practicing forester and valued DOF employee for over 30 years. This award recognizes David's innovative methods and record of excellence as a forestry practitioner.

News You Can Use

DOF CPR Training

- ◆ HQ employees recently completed their First Aid/CPR certification on June 16.

Need First Aid/CPR certification? Contact Safety and Training Coordinator [Chad Briggs](#), who is creating a list of participants for future classes.



Medical Emergency at Channels State Forest

- ◆ A hiker had a heart attack at the Channels State Forest natural area on Saturday, June 17. There was a cardiac nurse among nearby hikers to assist. The man was evacuated by ATV, then med flighted to Corn Valley. A cardiologist, the hiker recognized his symptoms as they were occurring. No update on his condition is currently available.

Last Week

DOF Spongy Moth Aerial Survey

- ◆ The invasive insect spongy moth emerged this spring and has caused significant defoliation in western Virginia, specifically in Shenandoah National Park and surrounding counties. Working with the Virginia Department of Aviation, DOF Forest Health program staff conducted an aerial survey last week. Approximately 37,000 acres with defoliation were mapped across Frederick, Shenandoah, Warren, Rappahannock, Page and Madison counties (southwest Virginia was not surveyed this year).



Healthy trees should recover from a single defoliation event; however, multiple years of defoliation can lead to long-term tree damage, especially for trees that are already stressed or weakened. The map is available here: <https://arcgis.com/arcgis/1ajTDv0>. On a related note, the “National Slow the Spread” program monitors and manages spongy moth with annual trapping and treatment programs. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the U.S. Forest Service cooperate in aerial treatment applications. Last week, the program surpassed 10 million acres of treatment nationally. Incidentally, STP program staff from VDACS and U.S. Forest Service ran into Governor Youngkin at the airport and shared the 10,000,000-acre milestone. (Pictured Left: Spongy moth damage visible from DOF’s aerial survey. Right: Tom Coleman, U.S. Forest Service STS Program Manager and Governor Youngkin.)

Virginia Tech Campus Visit

- ◆ Utilization and Marketing and Urban Community and Forestry staff visited with Virginia Tech’s arborist to look at current and ongoing campus tree maintenance including developing a plan for the property using DOF funds. The group also met Virginia Tech’s summer interns and discussed their work and future career goals after graduation.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative and American Tree Farm Standards Recertification

- ◆ Recertification to Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standards and American Tree Farm Standards was achieved on Virginia’s state forests for 2023. The release of both public summary audits for each certification system was received with no non-conformance issues identified by the third-party auditor.

Sandy Point State Forest Recreational Enhancements

- ◆ Construction to improve recreational opportunities at Sandy Point State Forest was completed for a parking lot expansion and horse corral area. Funding for the work was provided by General Assembly Recreational Funds for use in 2022-23.

State Forest

- ◆ Partnered with New River SWCD to host a tree give away with seedlings donated from Conservation Services. Several thousand seedlings were given out on the Matthews State Forest.
- ◆ Partner in education, Blue Ridge Discovery Center hosted a Discovery 'Camp for 10–12-year-olds at the Matthews State Forest. 12 students attended the camp held at the Matthews the week of June 8.
- ◆ The Hockley Tract timber sale was sold to Mike Gibson & Sons Logging of King and Queen Courthouse. The sale is expected to generate approximately \$72,000-once harvested and create additional area for future progeny testing.

State-Owned Lands

- ◆ The Virginia Tech Eastern Shore AREC timber sale was sold to Eastern Shore Forest Products for \$31,670.00 covering approximately 17 acres.
- ◆ The Department of Corrections Lawrenceville/Brunswick Timber Sale sold to Spence 2 Timber LLC for \$8,760. The sale covers approximately eight acres and will remove timber where corrections has had security issues near the facility giving better sight distances for guards.

Good Neighbor Authority

- ◆ The Potts Creek Timber Sale - Units 42,43, 44, 45-46 and 47 sold to American Hardwood Industries for \$109,095.30 covering approximately 72 acres. The sale was located Northwest of Covington.

Hardwood Initiative Training

- ◆ The Forest Management Branch held trainings in the eastern and western regions to update staff on the Hardwood Initiative, which has developed significantly over the past three years. Counting an earlier central region session, a total of 83 employees have now participated either in person or virtually. Primary topics included hardwood management practices and the Hardwood Initiative Cost-Share and Tax Credit. Forest Resource Management Program Manager **Todd Groh** led a brief overview of federal assistance programs and the importance of partnerships.

The Eastern Region training included an afternoon session for newer staff covering assessing stands and making forest management recommendations. Forest Management Director of **Dean Cumbia** (pictured) led a session on a nearby property that included field observations covering several varying stand conditions with recommendations to address the landowner's objectives and broader resource goals. Hardwood Initiative handouts from the training are available. Please contact Hardwood Initiative Coordinator **Joe Rossetti** (Joe.Rossetti@dof.virginia.gov) for more information.

