



July 27, 2023

Upcoming Events

[Fall Fire Academy](#) – September 25 – 29 ***Registration Now Open!**

[2023 Forest Management Academy](#) – Sept. 11 - 14 **Registration closes July 31!**

[Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Tour – Crozet](#) – August 25

[Virginia Tree Farm Foundation Tour – Halifax](#) – September 15

[Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning 1-Day Workshop](#) – September 16

[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 News

Welcome to DOF!

Meredith Massey has been selected for the forest technician position in the James River District, primarily covering Louisa County. She has a B.A. in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University plus 20 months of natural resources experience working as an assistant park ranger with North Carolina State Parks (she's also completed S-212, S-130, and S-190). Meredith began with DOF on July 25. Please provide Meredith with a warm welcome when you get a chance.



News You Can Use

VRS Visits

VRS representatives will be onsite at all three regions for one-on-one presentations. Schedule a meeting with the VRS representative to discuss retirement benefits, options and how to apply for retirement.

- ***August 2:** Tappahannock District Office
- ***August 8:** Charlottesville Central Region Office
- **August 15:** Western Regional Office, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

***Additional dates added**

Please contact Chief Human Resources Officer **John Habel** to schedule an appointment.

DOF Safety Bulletin: Heat Stress

As you certainly know by now, we are facing our hottest days of the year so far. In 2022, OSHA recorded 20 worker fatalities due to extreme heat. An email was sent to you with helpful information from Circle Safety and Health Consultants, LLC on how to treat – and prevent – heat stress. If you have any questions about heat stress, contact Safety and Training Coordinator **Chad Briggs** at (434) 989-5035 or Chad.Briggs@DOF.Virginia.gov.

Fall Fire Academy Reminder

Reminder: You can still sign up for the Fall Fire Academy before registration opens to the public and classes possibly fill up. **The website opens to the public on Aug. 1.** Register here: <https://cvent.me/v9349w>

Forest Management Academy -- September 11-15

The annual Forest Management Academy will be held on Sept. 11-15 at Sweet Briar College in Amherst. This year's Academy will feature three training tracks including those geared at newer non-field employees, newer field employees and experienced field employees. Track 1 and 2 attendees will gather on Monday afternoon to learn more about DOF, how we conduct our work, and tips on customer service and sales. On Tuesday, Track 1 employees will have a field tour to experience forestry in Virginia. Track 2 will focus on skills essential for success like field data gathering, planning and tree planting. Track 3 employees will cover topics including forest *land*, carbon, and invasive species management. All tracks will include a combination of classroom and field instruction. Talk to your supervisor for guidance on the track that's best for you, and how to register. **Registration is open through July 31.**

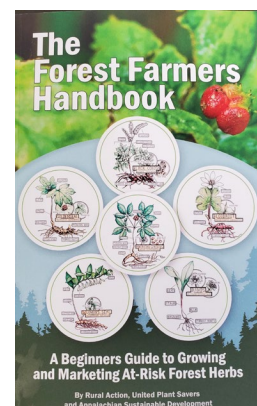
Last Week

Virginia Loggers Association Quarterly Meeting and Site Visits

The Virginia Loggers Association (VLA) arranged two days of site visits for State Forester **Rob Farrell** to meet with loggers and visit active timber harvests supplying woody biomass to the three Dominion biomass energy facilities. The sites demonstrated the range of timber harvests that normally provide residual material for biomass. Farrell also attended the VLA quarterly board meeting where the loggers helped develop a survey for all loggers who supply the Dominion biomass facilities. Survey responses will provide information for the carbon life cycle analysis study currently under way.

Agroforestry Training

Forest Management Coordinator **Todd Groh** recently attended the “Agroforestry Training for Natural Resource Professionals, Forest Farming 101 – Fundamentals.” The session was held on July 20 at Kentland Farms near Blacksburg, which serves as Virginia Tech's working farm and forest. Sponsored by the Appalachian Sustainable Development organization, nearly 20 professionals, primarily from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, attended. “Forest farming” is a unique approach to land management which combines management practices of conventional forestry with small-scale farming of wood grown herbs and other plants to help provide intermediate and sustainable income. Instruction included determining the best sites for forest farming as well as details on the most common forest farming crops (ramps, black cohosh, goldenseal and ginseng).



Two additional agroforestry training sessions will be held later this year, [Silvopasture on Aug. 15](#) in Blackstone and [Alley Cropping on Sept. 21](#) in Catawba. The guidebook (pictured) used in the training is available through <https://www.appalachianforestfarmers.org/intro>.

DOF Helps Nansemond Indian Nation with Sugar Maple Salvage

On July 17, Community Forester **Kendall Topping**, District Forester **Luke Marcek** and intern **Evan Ruland** assisted the Nansemond Indian Nation to preserve the southern sugar maple population in Mattanock Town in Suffolk. This area is the only known area in southern Virginia to have a southern sugar maple population, making it of cultural importance to the Nansemond Indian Nation. The current area will be treated for Chinese privet and if left, the maples would be killed in the removal process. Over 150 sugar maple seedlings were salvaged by volunteers and will be given to tribe members, schools and nonprofit organizations. During the project, Kendall spoke with a reporter from *The Virginian-Pilot* about the importance of biodiversity and riparian buffers.



Virginia Cooperate Extension AG Today

Forestland Conservation Program Manager **Karl Didier** and Neil Clark from Virginia Cooperate Extension (VCE) gave presentations DOF Conservation Program staff joined Virginia Cooperate Extension (VCE) to present at the weekly VCE “AG Today” series about the Generation NEXT Program, Legacy Planning and conservation tools available to landowners to keep their lands in forest, intact, and in family. All VCE Ag Today seminars can be [viewed on YouTube](#).

Richmond Spotted Lanternfly Survey

DOF partnered with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services staff to complete a delineation survey of Spotted Lanternfly recently found in the Scott’s Addition neighborhood of Richmond.

DOF in the News:

WTKR Features Positive Impacts of Trees in Hampton Roads

DOF was featured on a [July 19 broadcast](#) on the Norfolk-based WTKR (TV-3, CBS). WTKR spoke with Community Forester **Kendall Topping** for the story, which focused on rising temps and the positive impacts of trees to combat heat islands in neighborhoods and urban communities. The segment encouraged citizens to plant and maintain mature trees.

