



August 23, 2023

Upcoming Events

[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.

Policy and Procedures & Forms

[Policy and Procedures 04-006 Wildland Fire Law Enforcement](#) has been updated to remove the agency arson hotline that is no longer available.

[Policy and Procedure 04-009 Fire and Emergency Response Assistance Programs](#) has been updated to reflect the use of the new System Access Portal for Forestry Grants.

[Policy and Procedures 14-001 Forest Inventory and Analysis Program](#) has been updated to reflect time reporting in Cardinal.

[Form 8.35 Agency Hiring Request – Full-time](#) has been updated, as of 8/15/2023, to have a “Position is: Grant Funded” option.

News You Can Use

[Waynesboro Tree Care Workshop: The What and Why of Mature Tree Care](#) – Sept. 15

The theme of this workshop is centered around mature tree care and the different options available for proper management. Specific, notable trees will be highlighted including the Merry Tree at Virginia Tech, the Survivor Tree in Oklahoma City as well as the Elms & Cherries that line the Mall in Washington, DC. If interested in attending, please reach out to your supervisor for permission. Urban and Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator [Molly O'Liddy](#) is collecting names of DOF staff interested in attending. Please reach out to her with questions.

Virginia Tree Steward Symposium

On September 22-23, Trees Virginia will be hosting the bi-annual Virginia Tree Steward Symposium at the Woolen Mill in Fredericksburg. Registration for the event opened last week. The two-day event is an opportunity for Tree Stewards from across Virginia to gather and share their passion and projects. Features will include lectures on volunteer dynamics, training opportunities, tree planting demonstrations and more. The full agenda can be found on the Trees Virginia website.

Last Week

35 Years and Counting

Avond Randolph (pictured here at right, with State Forest Superintendent **Tom Zaebst**) was recently recognized for his 35 years of service to the Commonwealth and DOF's state forests.

State Forest and State-Owned Lands Managers Meeting

The State Forest and State-Owned Lands managers recently met for a meeting at the Cumberland State Forest.

(Pictured here, from left to right: State Forests Administrative Staff Assistant **Tammy Ingle**, Appomattox Buckingham State Forest Manager **Mike Womack**, Eastern State Forests Manager **Dennis Gaston** (Big Woods, Sandy Point, Dragon Run, Chesterfield, Crawfords, Chilton Woods, Zoar, South Quay and Browne), Assistant State Forest Superintendent **Randy Kyner**, Northern State Forests Manager **Jack Kauffman** (Conway Robinson, Paul, Devil's Backbone, Whitney, Lesesne and First Mountain), State Forest Superintendent **Tom Zaebst**, Cumberland State Forest Technician and Transportation Operator **Avond Randolph**, State Lands Manager **Ed Stoots**, Charlotte and Prince Edward State Forest Manager **Kirby Woolfolk**, Cumberland State Forest Manager **Shannon Lewis**, and Western State Forests Manager **Zach Olinger** (Moore's Creek, Bourassa, Niday, Hawks, Matthews, Old Flat, and Channels). (Not pictured are Appomattox Buckingham State Forest Technician **Ian Morris**, Eastern State Forest Technician **Ben Duke**, and Buildings and Grounds Maintenance and Trades Technician **Willie Shumaker**.)



Chesapeake Bay Meeting

DOF Watershed Program staff attended a recent Chesapeake Bay funding meeting with Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles, Director of the Office of Regulatory Management Andrew Wheeler, and other state agency representatives. The objective of the meeting is to increase awareness of various funding opportunities available to landowners for project implementation regarding the Commonwealth's WIP III goals. DOF is coordinating with the Virginia Soil and Water District to discuss next steps.

Conservation Easement 206

DOF established its 206th conservation easement on the 1,000-acre Black Walnut property in Charlotte County. The easement conserves 932 acres of working forests, 90% of which are considered high Forest Conservation Value. The area includes nearly three miles of frontage on the Roanoke River.

Wavyleaf on State Lands

Invasive Species Specialist **Lindsay Caplan** has been surveying state land for wavyleaf grass, an invasive plant that is included on Virginia's Noxious Weed List to identify and control its spread. On Aug. 7, she met with Virginia Department of Wildlife Resource staff at Thompson Wildlife Management Area in Fauquier County where a wavyleaf population was found and treated last year (no plants were located during this year's survey efforts). Lindsay also surveyed for, located and treated several populations of wavyleaf grass on Conway Robinson State Forest and Whitney State Forest in Northern Virginia. At Conway Robinson, treatment efforts were assisted by staff from the nearby Manassas National Battlefield Park. The wavyleaf was beginning to seed, so the plants were cleared from the trails to prevent forest visitors from spreading it further, and more extensive treatments will take place next year.

Emerald Ash Borer Treatment at Cumberland State Forest

Forest Health Technician **Amanda Conrad** recently treated a large ash tree at Cumberland State Forest to protect it from the Emerald Ash Borer. The tree is on the edge of a harvested area. One of the goals of this treatment was to keep a seed source of ash on the forested landscape for the long term. While the tree is in decline, and we will also observe if treatment can help in recovery of trees already affected.

4H Forestry Day Camp

Forest Technician **Shane Burgess**, Area Forester **Levi White**, and Area Forester **Tom Snoddy** spoke to approximately 20 children at Bear Creek Lake State Park in Cumberland County as part of a day camp with the local 4H office. Students learned forest management as well as firefighting and fire prevention. As usual, the bulldozer was a big hit.

Louisa County National Night Out

Area Forester **Cameron Lipscomb** attended Louisa County National Night Out. DOF's display included the equipment that wildland firefighters use. Cameron spoke to a total of 124 youth and adults about fire prevention and forestry programs that DOF offers to landowners.

Amherst County Night Out

Area Forester **Garrett Evans** and Forest Technician **T.C. Orman** attended the Amherst County Night Out. This annual event provides the public with an opportunity to meet local and state law enforcement officers, learn the duties and responsibilities of each agency, and view emergency equipment and demonstrations. DOF employees spoke with members of the community about services provided by DOF, benefits of healthy forests, timber sale planning, outdoor fire laws and safe debris burning. DOF brought a transport and bulldozer to help illustrate how wildfires are contained and managed by staff and volunteer fire companies.



DOF Emerald Ash Beetle with WAVY TV-10

Kendall Topping appeared on WAVY TV-10 (Norfolk) for an interview to discuss the Emerald Ash Borer being found in Chesapeake. During the interview, Topping said ash trees help with “stormwater infrastructure, cleaning the air, increasing property value, the beauty, lower crime, happier people and lower temperatures.” Watch the interview here:

<https://www.wavy.com/video/chesapeake-treating-trees-for-invasive-green-beetle/>

