



September 18, 2023

Upcoming Events

[2023 Fall Fire Academy](#) – September 25 - 29

[Generation NEXT: Legacy Planning Workshop](#) – October 20 & 21

[Board of Forestry Meeting](#) – October 31

Welcome (Back) to DOF

Alanna Ostrowski has rejoined the Capital District as a Community Forestry Specialist. Alanna is returning to DOF from Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources where she was a Wildlife Management Area manager. Previously a technician with DOF's Capital Team, Alanna also has experience with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation State Parks managing AmeriCorps volunteers across eastern Virginia. Alanna is an Air Force veteran, holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from American Military University, and is currently working on her Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management. Alanna's first day back was Sept. 11.



Policy and Procedures

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment Cost-Share Program

The Forest Health Program is pleased to announce that they are now offering a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Treatment Cost-Share Program for the treatment of qualifying eastern and Carolina hemlock trees. This program is open to landowners and organizations statewide and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Approved applicants will receive a reimbursement of up to 100% of treatment costs for approved HWA control methods. Landowners may apply with [Form 6.7 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment Cost-Share Program Application](#) , and full program details can be found in [Policy and Procedures 06-004 Forest Pest Treatment Cost-Share Program](#). See the [DOF Forest Health page](#) for more information, or contact Forest Health Technician **Amanda Conrad** at Amanda.Conrad@DOF.Virginia.gov.

Agency Updates

Legacy Planning Workshops for Landowners

DOF and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) are encouraging landowners to make plans – now – for passing land on to the next generation. The Generation NEXT program, a collaboration between DOF and VCE, is hosting in-person workshops in three locations for family members to ask difficult questions, receive useful information, and get on the same page about plans for the future. Families pay a fee to participate (includes refreshments and meals for full-day workshops) as well as all materials. Visit the [Generation NEXT website](#) for more information.



Upcoming workshops:

- Chatham – Oct. 20-21
- Richmond – Nov. 9

Applications Open for the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program

In a news release this week, DOF, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS), announced the availability of grant funding for the 2023 installment of the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant Assistance Program. Virginia received a total allocation of \$6,600,000. Distributed over a four-year period, grants are awarded to civic groups, communities, local governments, tribal organizations, non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, public educational institutions, and state agencies. “This historic allocation of funds for Virginia communities will enable us to reach all parts of the state,” said **Lara Johnson**, DOF Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator.

To apply, proposals must be submitted to DOF’s System Access Portal for Forestry Grants. All applications must be submitted online by 9 p.m. on Nov. 3. For more information about the U&CF Grant Program, including the RFA and grants portal user guide, visit our website.

A Little WIYBY Reading

Our colleague and partner Adam Downing from the Virginia Cooperative Extension has developed a list of available “Woods In Your Back Yard” (or WIYBY) publications to share with landowners and homeowners. DOF provides partial project funding, technical support, and also co-authored two of the publications. As noted in the introduction, the WIYBY program was designed for those who manage smaller properties of 10 acres or less. These are located on the DOF website in the Resource Library and also appear on the Landowner Assistance and Homeowner Assistance pages.



<https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/The-Woods-in-Your-Backyard-Program-Resources-Available.pdf>

Forest Management Academy

The 2023 Forest Management Academy was held last week at Sweet Briar College. To ensure DOF provides the highest level of information and service, DOF employees need the most current knowledge to form scientific recommendations. Approximately 65 newer staff (15 non-field and 50 field) were in attendance, providing an excellent opportunity for agency leaders to communicate directly with DOF's "greener" employees and provide the bigger picture of DOF. Approximately 40 additional (more seasoned) employees attended and expanded their knowledge base and sharpened their skills.

On Monday, the opening session kicked off with a presentation by State Forester **Rob Farrell** that set the stage for the week as he discussed our history, mission, goals and challenges. The State Forester also presented a Certified Forest Stewardship Award to Lisa J. Powell, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Human and Environmental Sustainability, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Agriculture, and STEM Division Head at Sweet Briar for the college's ongoing commitment to campus forest management. Deputy State Forester **Ed Zimmer** facilitated a panel session to introduce program, section leaders and the regional foresters to staff. An evening BBQ, social time, as well as the outdoor showing of the new American chestnut foundation film, "Clear Day Thunder, Rescuing the American Chestnut," was enjoyed by attendees.



Additional sessions focused on customer service and selling forestry, emerging issues (solar, nutrients, forest land, carbon, etc.), forest literacy, and several field classes on forest management, health, invasive species, data collection, tree establishment and best practices. DOF staff – namely Watershed Program Manager **Caitlin Verdu**, Forest Technician **Emily Wotton**, Research Program Manager **Zoe Bergman** and Area Forester **Amy Bigger** – carved out time to help organize and staff a

"Careers in Forestry and State Government" panel where they shared their experiences working in forestry and what's possible for students considering natural resources careers (Forest Health Program Manager Lori Chamberlin helped organize the event. "It was an incredibly well-attended event by SBC standards (16 students plus several staff and faculty), and all of the students who attended (several had left for afternoon classes prior to the photo) walked away saying how valuable the panel was., said Dr. Lisa J. Powell, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Human and Environmental Sustainability, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Agriculture, and STEM Division Head,



by email. “The four women from DOF who spoke with the students were so generous with their time and advice, and all were inspirations to our students in showing what is possible in future natural resources careers. One first-year student (who had been a bit quiet during the session) came up to me afterward and said ‘Working for the Dept of Forestry is exactly what I want to do. How can we incorporate more forestry into my studies?’ So, we are going to be working on a plan for internships, projects, etc.”

Kudos to Forest Management Director **Dean Cumbia** and staff for planning and implementing another great academy.



Land Trust Alliance Rally

The Annual Land Trust Alliance Rally was held in Portland, Oregon last week. The Virginia-based attendees (including DOF representatives Forestland Conservation Coordinator **Clint Folks** and Forestland Conservation **Specialist Charles Lacy**. Rally is composed of learning sessions and networking events focused on land conservation. Classroom sessions took an in-depth look at solar energy, carbon markets, conservation easements and a variety of topical issues. Keynote speakers included President and CEO of Land Trust Alliance Andrew Bowman and Oregon State University professor and local tribal leader David Lewis, Ph.D.