



October 10, 2023

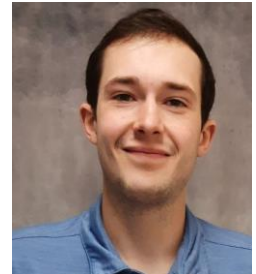
## Upcoming Events

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

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

## Welcome to DOF

**Nicholas Smith** is our new Floyd County Forester in the Western Region. Nick grew up in neighboring Carroll County, where he attended Carroll County High School. Nick graduated from Virginia Tech in 2022 with a degree in forestry and interned one summer at the Matthews State Forest in Galax. Prior to DOF, Nick worked at a land management company as forestry consultant for private landowners.



## Safety Reminder

### *Don't Forget Your Blaze Orange*

Fall is here and so is hunting season! Make sure you remain safe and seen. Don't forget to change into your blaze orange to be easily visible to hunters while working in the woods.



## Agency Updates

### *White Oak Initiative Board Meeting*

State Forester **Rob Farrell** attended a White Oak Initiative board meeting and Capitol Hill visits to raise awareness of the sustainability concerns for white oak, one of our most important forest and timber species. The Initiative, which was spearheaded by the bourbon industry, represents the many interests concerned with white oak sustainability including landowners, forest industry, researchers, NGOs, and public agencies. The State Forester serves on the executive committee representing state forestry agencies and the private landowners we work with.

### *New Virginia Urban Wood Newsletter*

DOF's Urban Wood Program published the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of its newsletter:

<https://www.treesvirginia.org/services/virginia-urban-wood-group>

## *White House Climate Summit*

Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager **Lara Johnson** attended the White House Summit on Building Climate Resilient Communities in Washington D.C. Representatives from across the country met to discuss community-driven climate resilient strategies with federal officials at this invitation-only event. About 70 people were in attendance.

## *Virginia Noxious Weed Advisory Committee Meeting*

Forest Health Program Manager **Lori Chamberlin** and Invasive Species Specialist **Lindsay Caplan** attended the Virginia Noxious Weed Advisory Committee meeting at HQ on Nov. 26. The committee is composed of representatives from different agencies and stakeholders that vote to approve nominations of weeds to add to [Virginia's Noxious Weed List](#). Anyone can submit a nomination using the [online noxious weed assessment tool](#). If approved by the Board of Agriculture and the Governor, the plant's sale and movement within the Commonwealth will be regulated by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

## *Invasive Species Management at HQ*

Members of the Forest Management branch, Urban and Community Forestry, and Watershed teams spent the morning of Sept. 28 conducting invasive species management on the grounds around DOF HQ. Target species included autumn olive, Asiatic bittersweet, tree-of-heaven, porcelain berry, and multi-flora rose. A combination of mechanical and chemical methods was used to remove these species along the road leading to HQ. Follow-up work will occur in the spring of 2024.



## *Virginia Society of American Forester Receives Forest Health Update*

Forest Health Specialist **Katlin DeWitt** presented a forest health update to the Virginia Division of Society of American Foresters annual Continuing Forestry Education extravaganza held at DOF headquarters on Sept. 28. This forest health presentation included updates on spongy moth, beech leaf disease, southern pine beetle trapping results and the new hemlock cost share program offered through the DOF forest health program. In total, there were over 50 attendees both in person and on Zoom.

## *Insectary Scouting at Lesesne State Forest*

Forest Health Specialist **Katlin DeWitt** and Forest Health Technician **Amanda Conrad** met with State Forest Manager **Jack Kauffman** at Lesesne State Forest to look at potential locations to plant hemlocks. These hemlocks will ultimately be used as a field insectary for *Laricobius* beetles (a predator of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA)), where forest health staff can collect beetles for redistribution at other locations around Virginia. This will make it easier to release more biocontrol agents in hemlock stands in Virginia, hopefully providing long-term control of HWA.

## *Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) Kick-off*

CVC is an annual charity drive that offers state employees a safe and easy way to donate to your favorite causes throughout the year! Employees can donate to charities of their choice by payroll deduction or credit

card. The deadline for payroll deduction donations is December 19, 2023 and December 31, 2023 for credit card. If you have any questions, contact **Kristi Clore** at [Kristina.Clore@DOF.Virginia.gov](mailto:Kristina.Clore@DOF.Virginia.gov)