



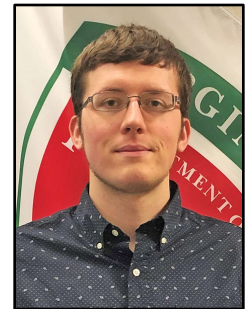
November 3, 2023

Upcoming Events

[Generation Next: Legacy Planning Mini Workshop – November 9](#)

Welcome to DOF

Jacob Zielinski has been selected as the new Community Forestry Specialist in the Rappahannock District, covering Fairfax and Arlington counties. Many of you know Jacob from his work as a Bay Watershed Specialist in the Rappahannock District, where he has worked for the past 17 months. Jacob has an A.A.S. in Forest Technology from Penn State-Mont Alto and a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Frostburg State. He has demonstrated the ability to collaborate with partner groups and take initiative to improve on DOF processes during his time with the agency, and we look forward to further utilizing his skills and abilities in his new role. Please congratulate Jacob when you have the opportunity.



Agency Updates

Virginia Wildfires

DOF has been busy responding to 17 wildfires this week. The largest fire is currently the Quaker Run Fire in Madison County (pictured), which has burned 1,200 acres. Fire lines have been completed around this fire and firefighters are now focusing on keeping the fire from escaping.

This marks the first time DOF has used the national suppression contract for Type-1 helicopter support. The largest, fastest and most expensive helicopters used on wildland fires, Type-1 helicopters can typically carry up to 1,100 gallons of water or retardant that can be strategically dropped with pinpoint accuracy.

DOF is also working to contain wildfires in Pulaski, Buchanan, Patrick and Craig Counties. Stay safe out there.



Forest Products Week

As part of Virginia Forest Products Week (Oct. 16-20), Governor Glenn Youngkin, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matt Lohr, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Travis Rickman, State Forester **Rob Farrell** and Deputy State Forester **Ed Zimmer** visited DOF's nursery in Sussex County on Oct. 17 to tour the facilities and see where tens of millions of seedlings are grown. They then toured Franklin Lumber in Southampton County to see how pine timber is turned into commercial lumber.

On Oct. 18, Secretary Lohr, **Farrell** and **Zimmer** toured R.S. Coleman Lumber in Orange County. On Oct. 19, the group also toured Forest Pros Inc., a forest equipment retailer in Charlotte County. See the photo album on [Flickr](#).



Annual Central Region Retreat

The Central Region held their annual Regional Retreat at Graves Mountain Farm and Lodge in Madison County. The two-day event included presentations from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources on upland game bird management and the Virginia Department of Energy on Virginia's geology. Attendees were also given the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of natural resource-based tours including Shenandoah National Park's Camp Rapidan, the White Oak Canyon Trail, and a guided horseback ride through the surrounding forests and farmland of rural Madison County. A total of 54 employees were in attendance.



Females in Forestry Leadership Training

The Females in Forestry affinity group organized a leadership training for female field staff which took place on Oct. 11 at the Ivy Creek natural area in Charlottesville. The training outlined skills, strengths, confidence, managing uncertainty, setting boundaries and putting confidence into action. "The training was very well received and DOF hopes to continue to provide additional trainings and classes on a variety of useful topics.



Powhatan County Farm Day

Staff from DOF's Capital Region represented DOF during the Powhatan County Farm Day. All third-grade students rotated through 16 stations learning about forestry, soils, farming, aquaculture, bee keeping, equestrian, tractor safety, beef and dairy cattle operations. At the Forestry station, the students discussed why trees are important, how a tree grows, and how to prevent wildlife fires. Students also played a Project Learning Tree game called "Every Tree for Itself," where they learned what it takes for trees to grow in a forest.

Richmond Racing Event Held at Cumberland State Forest

Richmond Racing held a 100K/50K (61 miles/31.5 miles) bike race on the Cumberland State Forest on Oct. 22. There were 120 participants of all ages. This event was coordinated by Richmond Racing, Bear Creek Lake State Park, Cumberland Fire and EMS, Cumberland Sheriff's Department and DOF State Forest personnel. The race is a nationally sanctioned, with some of the top racers completing the 61-mile race in around 3 hours.



Timber Cruise on Moore's Creek State Forest

Personnel completed sale layout and the timber cruise on one stand located on Moore's Creek State Forest. The unit to harvest will be approximately 40 acres in size and will be accessed via a temporary road through the U.S. Forest Service's Green Hill and Blacks Creek Good Neighbor Authority Projects. The state forest and U.S. Forest Service sales will hopefully be put out for bid in November. Access to this part of the Moore's Creek State Forest would not occur if not for our U.S. Forest Service cooperative agreements.



Green Adventure Project School

Forest Health Specialist **Katlin DeWitt** and Invasive Species Specialist **Lindsay Caplan** taught four classes at the Green Adventure Project School in Charlottesville on Oct. 18th. This school takes students K-6 for an entire day of outdoor learning. The surrounding land is heavily used as a classroom and Katlin and Lindsay joined to help students with a "bio-blitz." Students explored the property and made a list of plants and invertebrate species they discovered. As students were exploring, Katlin and Lindsay answered questions about forest health, invasive species, and plant and insect identification.

Tree Improvement Progeny Planting at New Kent

A DOF crew planted a progeny test area on Oct. 19 as part of our Tree Improvement Program at the New Kent Forestry Center. Planters included Tree Improvement Forester **Ones Bitoki**, Research Program Manager **Zoe Bergman**, State Forest Technician **Ben Duke**, Forest Manager **Dennis Gaston**, Forest Health Manager **Lori Chamberlin** and Forest Health Specialist **Katlin DeWitt**. Trees from this planting will help determine the most valuable families to include in production orchards.



Holly Grove Fire and Rescue Fall Festival

Smokey Bear and Area Forester **Cameron Lipscomb** joined the Holly Grove Volunteer Fire and Rescue Departments for their 40th Anniversary and Fall Festival on Oct. 7. Smokey helped spread the word about preventing wildfires by passing out pamphlets and Smokey swag. Cameron spoke to parents about fire safety and forest management opportunities that DOF offers. Approximately 150 people stopped by.

