



Forestry ews

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

MISSION:

"We Protect and Develop Healthy, Sustainable Forest Resources for Virginians."

DEVIL'S BACKBONE STATE FOREST DEDICATION

Submitted by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

More than 70 people were on hand Saturday, June 3rd, for the dedication of the Devil's Backbone State Forest (DBSF). Located in northwestern Shenandoah County, DBSF is a 558-acre Upland Hardwood – Southern Pine forest type dominated by various species of oak trees.

The bulk of the land is a gift of John and Bernice Hoffman. A portion – 44 acres – was the gift of Ms. Judith Dyke. Speakers at the event included State Forester Carl Garrison; Gary Heiser, state forest supervisor; Joe Lehen, area forester, and Robert Dunn, retired regional forester in Staunton.

The Devil's Backbone State Forest will be used for forest research – including work with the American Chestnut; conservation education, and passive recreational opportunities.

"There are several American Chestnut research plots in which resistant trees have been planted to determine how they will survive the chestnut blight in an uncontrolled forest environment," said Joe Lehen, area forester. "In addition to this important research, the DBSF will offer two trails, one of which is an arduous climb that will take you to the top of Little North Mountain. The two trails were the efforts of young men working on their Eagle Scout awards."

Two other Eagle Scout projects have been completed as well – one involves a wildlife opening rehab project; the other is a spring and campsite development.

Joe Lehen has worked with the Hoffman family for more than 20 years helping them achieve their landowner objectives. With the dedication complete, all Virginians will benefit from Joe's commitment and the generosity of the Hoffman and Dyke families.



Carl Garrison,
State Forester

Janet Muncy,
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Message

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



To those of you who were not at this year's Environment Virginia conference, you missed one of the most important and dynamic addresses by a Virginia governor in many years. Governor Tim Kaine's speech at the conference, which is held annually at Virginia Military Institute, provided a far-reaching - yet concrete - agenda related to conserving Virginia's natural resources.

One of the specifics he shared with the 750 attendees and several members of the news media concerned the conservation of 400,000 acres of Virginia land. This bold initiative, while challenging, is attainable. And all of us at the Virginia Department of Forestry will have a hand in reaching this goal. Why? Because of all the current land uses across the Commonwealth, forested land offers the greatest potential acreage available for conservation purposes.

This being the case, we will take a more prominent role in land conservation. Your interactions with and recommendations to Virginia landowners will be keys to success in this regard. We will be working to develop a training program for you to ensure you are well versed in all the particulars associated with conservation easements. This training will include guidance on the latest information on tax implications for forest landowners. We will also be developing related printed materials that you will be able to use in your work with landowners.

Governor Kaine and the citizens of the Commonwealth are counting on us because all Virginians will benefit in so many ways when we conserve another 400,000 acres of working landscape. The time is ripe for action. And we're up for the challenge!

Carl Harrison
State Forester

VDOF HOSTS CHINESE FORESTRY DELEGATION

Submitted by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

More than a dozen foresters and forest product providers from China were treated to a day-long tour of several Virginia Department of Forestry facilities. The day's highlight came during a guided tour of the American Chestnut research plots at Lesesne State Forest in Nelson County. Led by Director of Resource Information Dr. John Scrivani and Research Forester Wayne Bowman, the group spent time seeing and hearing about the important research underway at Lesesne.

Dr. Scrivani said, "They were very interested in what is taking place out there. Members of the delegation asked a number of great questions, and it was obvious that they were here to learn."

The Virginia Department of Forestry was asked to lead the tour because of the research work being undertaken across the Commonwealth and because of its proximity to Washington, DC. Thanks to all VDOF staff who made this event a success.



Landowner

TOURS REACH NEW AUDIENCES

Submitted by Ellen Powell, conservation education coordinator, Public Information Division

This year, VDOF began holding tours to show landowners examples of good forest management and to inform them about cost-share programs. Funded by USDA Forest Service, these tours are a partnership among Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension/Virginia Tech, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Virginia State University's Small Farmer Outreach Program.

Although anyone is welcome to attend these tours, they are being marketed heavily to underserved audiences. What exactly does "underserved" mean? The term refers to anyone who could benefit from services but is not currently using them. In the case of VDOF, this may mean landowners who have no contact with their local VDOF offices. In some cases, people know about our services and choose not to use them. But in other cases, they may be unaware of what our agency can do to help them manage their forest land. As land values increase, it is becoming increasingly important for farmers and other landowners to understand the financial options that can keep them on their land.

"This tour was an eye-opener in dealing with property management."

"I greatly appreciated the opportunity to visit farms and see actual management."

"I plan to spread the word to my neighbors about the information available."

The first tour showcased forest management in Halifax County. Of the 41 landowners participating, 46 percent were African-Americans and 41 percent were female. Both of these demographic groups are traditionally underrepresented among those obtaining services from resource agencies. Participants reported increased knowledge of cost-share programs, timber sale planning, basic forest management, planting and site preparation, stewardship plans, wildlife management and resource agency contacts. Planned actions included planting old pasture and tobacco land; evaluating forests on the farm; consulting with agencies to explore options and planning; thinning current pine stands; and improving wildlife habitat.

Local VDOF staffs play a key role in helping to choose sites and provide technical information on these tours. You may be contacted one day to help plan and conduct one of these tours in your area. If so, you'll be introduced to a new group of people who are interested in what you can teach them! In the meantime, here are some tips for letting underserved landowners know about what you do:

1) Offer something the people want. As part of the tour evaluation, we are asking participants what topics they would like to learn more about, making it possible to plan future workshops.

2) Find community leaders and get them to tell your story. The most trusted leaders often are not elected officials, but those who have earned the respect of their neighbors over the years. Word of mouth can be your most important form of advertising, especially in rural communities.

continued on page 5



Dave Snyder, assistant regional forester, Region 4, explains the benefits of managing your forest.



Shannon Lewis, forester, Region 4, Halifax County, answers questions from one of the attendees. These tours allow for personal interaction between landowners and natural resource professionals.



Landowners benefit from the diversity of speakers from different agencies: Marc Puckett of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries addresses the group about managing forests for wildlife.

Virginia Hosts INTERNATIONAL PLT CONFERENCE

*Submitted by John Campbell, director,
Public Information Division*



Virginia Conference Host Committee members gather for a photo.



State Forester Carl Garrison, Secretary Robert Bloxom, Dr. Mike Kelly, Dean of Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and VFA President Paul Howe



Lisa Deaton, VDOF PLT coordinator, Ellen Reynolds, Virginia PLT Educator of the Year, and National PLT Director Kathy McGlaufflin

More than 140 Project Learning Tree (PLT) coordinators and educators gathered May 8 – 12 in Virginia Beach for the annual PLT International Coordinators' Conference. Participants, including PLT Founder Rudy Schafer, came from 40 states as well as Japan and Mexico.

The conference included more than 40 programs – ranging from creating successful grants to assessment of PLT programs to reaching and teaching English language learners. Several field trips were also on the agenda. Field trips included visits to the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center; a tour of the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge; canoe and kayak tours around First Landing State Park, and a tour of the Chesapeake Bay on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's headboat.

Led by Lisa Deaton, the Virginia Conference Host Committee included Virginia Department of Forestry employees Dennis Gaston, R-2 assistant regional forester; Jack Kaufman, area forester in Chesapeake; Toni Sanderson, R-1 assistant regional forester; Ellen Powell, conservation education coordinator, and Scott Bachman, R-1 assistant regional forester. Other host committee members were: Amy Bigger, Smurfit-Stone Corp.; Holly Carson, Norfolk Environmental Commission; Barry Fox, Virginia State University; James Johnson, Virginia Tech; Sean Kerlee, International Paper Corp.; Jeff Kirwan, Virginia Tech; Paula Klonowski, Virginia Department of Education; Board of Forestry member Easton Loving of MeadWestvaco Corp.; Calvin Parrish, USDA – FSA; Glenda Parrish, Virginia Forestry Association; Eric Rhoades, Virginia Dept. of Education; Jon Rockett, Virginia Cooperative Extension; Patricia Stohr-Hunt, University of Richmond, and Shirley Sypolt, William Cooper Elementary School.

All of these individuals worked many hours and days to make this international conference an unqualified success. The conference attendees were very complimentary and appreciated the host committee's attention to detail.

DEATON HONORED AT PLT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Lisa Deaton, Virginia state coordinator for Project Learning Tree (PLT), was awarded a Gold Star for her outstanding contributions to the success and growth of PLT at the national and state levels. She received the award at the International PLT Coordinators' Conference, held May 8 – 12 in Virginia Beach.

Lisa is one of a small number of people to have received the Gold Star award since the establishment of the Project Learning Tree program 30 years ago. More than 140 PLT coordinators and educators from 40 states and two foreign countries were on hand to congratulate Lisa on her achievement.

"It was a complete shock," she said. "I can't begin to tell you how honored I am to be included among such a distinguished group of environmental educators."

DEATON HONORED AT PLT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

continued from page 4

PLT Executive Director Kathy McGlauflin said, "The Gold Star Award is the highest honor bestowed by PLT National. Lisa's enduring and unflinching dedication to the mission and goals of PLT made her an obvious choice for this recognition. PLT is an immeasurably better organization because of her care and commitment; devotion and dedication; energy and expertise."

State Forester Carl Garrison said, "PLT is the premier environmental education program for K-12. In Virginia, PLT is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Virginia Forestry Association and Virginia Tech. And we're most fortunate to have Lisa running this program. The Gold Star Award is certainly a fitting tribute to her work in this regard."

VDOF EARNS HIGH MARKS FROM USFS

A team of seven professionals from the USDA Forest Service's Southern Region conducted a management review of the Virginia Department of Forestry's operations February 27th through March 1st.

The purpose of the review was: to evaluate the organizational and administrative environment in which the cooperative forestry assistance programs operate; to determine whether the State and the Forest Service are utilizing available resources in an economical and efficient manner; and to assess and correct any inefficiencies in management information systems, administrative procedures, organizational structure or compliance with Federal laws and Executive Orders. The last review of this type was in the year 2000.

This year's review generated 15 commendations of Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) programs and activities from the USFS team. Of particular note, the team cited the effectiveness of the Agency's financial accountability; its leadership in the development of IFRIS; the restoration work in breeding, propagation and related native forest work; the various partnership programs the agency is involved with; VDOF's leadership in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans; its employee development and leadership program; the forest health and resource information programs; and the public information and communications program.

State Forester Carl Garrison said, "Because of everyone's hard work and dedication, the Virginia Department of Forestry earned an A+ on this review. I'm proud of the work VDOF employees are doing across the state, and it was especially rewarding to see that being recognized by the US Forest Service."

LANDOWNER TOURS REACH NEW AUDIENCES

continued from page 3

3) Leave VDOF brochures or your business cards in unlikely places as you travel around your community. You never know who might pick up something to read from a table at church, the post office counter, the doctor's waiting room or the grocery store bulletin board.

4) Get to know other local agencies, such as FSA, VCE, NRCS and SWCDs, that also work with landowners. Many of these agencies have mailing lists and are willing to include information about VDOF programs and services when they send information to their clientele.

5) Partner with other agencies and groups to reach a wider audience. Don't worry about which agency "gets the credit" for a great program. Everyone wins when we work together to educate the public about the importance of forest resource management.



The tour group had to brave the cold in Halifax, but they were able to see a planting crew in action.

Logging Expo

2006



New water quality banner-up displays.



New water quality pop-up display highlighting BMPs.



Matt Poirot answers questions from a logger about best management practices.

Submitted by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) enhanced its presence at the biennial Logging Expo, held May 19 - 20 at Richmond International Raceway. Thousands of loggers from Virginia and 20 other states attended the event.

Four new VDOF water-quality exhibits made their debut at the expo. This included three individual "banner up" displays that pull up from a self-contained storage unit and feature a different message and photo related to water quality and timber harvesting. In addition, a new full-size, lighted display unit served as the main information backdrop for the indoor display. Matt Poirot and Janet Muncy created the new displays and also developed a new full-color pamphlet on water quality and timber harvesting; VDOF-labeled bottled water; insulated lunch bags; "call before you cut" vehicle air fresheners and magnets.

The outside exhibit featured several examples of stream crossing devices, such as portable bridges, that are available to loggers to prevent sedimentation from entering streams during logging operations.

More than a dozen VDOF employees staffed the two booths over the course of the two-day event. And a portable bridge, which was donated by Hopewell Hardwood Sales Inc., was raffled off by VDOF to support the "Log-A-Load for Kids" program.

"We had two great exhibits and a lot of terrific employees representing the Agency at the expo," said Poirot. "This is the one time every two years when we are able to meet and educate many of the loggers working in Virginia's forests. And this year's exhibits were the best ever."



(above) Charlie Becker talks to loggers about timber bridges.



(left) Jessica Parker and Sandy Sullivan provide information to booth visitors and win the award for top raffle ticket sales benefiting Log-A-Load for Kids.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA LOGGER RECEIVES MERIT AWARD

Submitted by Jonathan Pine, technician, Region 3, Culpeper and Orange counties

On April 28, 2006, John Dowell received a Virginia Logger Merit Award at the Virginia Forestry Association's Annual Convention in Wintergreen. John was nominated by Jeremy Clem of Blue Ridge Forestry Consultants and Jonathan Pine, VDOF technician for Culpeper County. The award was presented by Scott Barrett with Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The Logger Merit Award recognizes outstanding logger performance in Virginia. To be selected, a logger must adhere to Virginia's BMPs, provide proper personal protective equipment to his crew, be respectful to the property being worked on, keep rights of way clear of debris, conduct harvesting operations in a fair and sound way, and understand and respect Virginia's forestry laws. The logger also must be certified as a SHARP Logger.

Congratulations to John and his son, Jeff, for their outstanding work.



Scott Barrett, Jeff Dowell, John Dowell and Jonathan Pine.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS WERE GREAT

"God bless each and every one of you."

We would like to commend all of the members of the firefighting teams involved in fighting the recent fire on Massanutten Mountain.

That includes members of the Virginia Department of Forestry, the USDA Forest Service, the "Red Team," the US National Park Service, the Shenandoah Valley Wildfire Prevention and Education Team, the Luray Volunteer Fire Department, the Page County Sheriff's Department, and anyone else we may have missed.

The fighting of this forest fire, which is the worst Page County has seen in many, many years, was handled by these wonderful men and women with precision, professionalism, consideration for the property, privacy and concerns of the residents, hard work and many long hours.

God bless each and every one of you.

Fran and Bud Gregory, Luray, Virginia

"We probably would have lost that property."

I would like to give a huge round of applause to our local fire department and the Virginia Department of Forestry. What an outstanding job they did last week containing the wildfires.

We own property in Luray, one of which is in the Shenandoah Forest subdivision, close to the top. I am sure that without the fire department's prompt response and endurance, we probably would have lost that particular property.

We were totally impressed with the fire lines put in, some trees had to be cut out, people were there around the clock monitoring everything. It's really incredible the amount of hard work, knowledge and expertise that goes into fighting a fire.

We had no clue it was so involved. We strongly suggest that everyone support our local fire department as it is money well spent.

Brad and Donna Eames, Warrenton, Virginia

From: Cissy Swartz

Sent: Tue 5/2/2006 4:32 PM

To: Craft, Alan D.

Subject: Thanks from the folks on Bull Mountain

Dear Alan:

I'll bet you never thought you'd hear from the Swartz family again! I just had to write and thank you for all that you and the other DOF employees did for all the residents of Patrick County during the recent fire. Each day that I wake up in this little cabin and look out on beautiful Bull Mountain, I thank God for your knowledge and diligence and that you and the firefighters didn't give up on our home and the mountain.

Thanks so much for everything you did for us.

I will never forget your gift.

Cissy Moore-Swartz

Stuart, Virginia

CELEBRATE TH

ARBOR DAY SHOWS COMMUNITIES' PERSONALITIES

Submitted by Kelley Wagner, forester, Region 3, Loudoun and Prince William counties



Arbor Day celebrations, besides being a Tree City USA requirement, allow communities a chance to express their varied personalities. I had the chance to attend four celebrations in one county and experience each community's unique spin on their event. Loudoun County's Arbor Day had a fair-like quality with prizes, games, interactive programs and a live bluegrass band. The tree planting was unique in that a 98-inch tree spade was demonstrated. The Town of Middleburg's theme was focused on the children. The celebration was held on a local school's playground with games, awards and prizes for the children. The entertainment included the children playing an Arbor Day song on their recorders. Smokey Bear also put in an appearance and was instantly surrounded with delighted children. The Town of Purcellville played to an adult audience with an in-depth how-to planting of a Fringe tree. This was followed up by a hands-on pruning demonstration/class led by local arborist, Peter Deahl. Not to be left behind, the Town of Leesburg tied its celebration into the annual Flower and Garden Show. Leesburg's event brings in an annual audience of 35,000 people. It is a day out for the whole family with the vendors, live bands and display gardens. Attending these celebrations was a great way for a new forester to gain insight into the local communities' individual personalities. While these celebrations often take away from time off over the weekends, they cannot be beat for getting to know your communities, community leaders and other constituents.

CELEBRATING ISLE OF WIGHT AND SURRY FARM DAY

Submitted by Cody Daniels, technician, Region 1, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach



(above) Cody Daniels, technician, explains the use of fire rakes in fire suppression.

(right) Jack Kauffman, forester, shows how we use tree rings to tell a tree's life history.



The annual farm day celebration held at Oliver Farms in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, was a huge success. Participating agencies included: Virginia Department of Forestry, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Peanut Soil and Water Conservation District and many other folks from the private sector. Farm Days are held annually to allow elementary school age children the opportunity to learn and experience a little bit about outdoor-related jobs and what it is like to work on a farm. So many children these days rarely get the chance to learn about the outdoors because of the ever-continuing urbanization in many of our counties and cities. Farm Day gives them that chance and also allows them a break from their normal everyday classroom learning environment.

Personnel who attended from the Virginia Department of Forestry included Cody Daniels, Jack Kauffman, Larry Willis and Toni Sanderson. The VDOF exhibit included an interactive talk about trees and their benefits to our environment, a talk about fire, and an opportunity for the children to see some of the tools and equipment used by wildland firefighters. With about 500 children, parents and teachers in attendance, it proved to be an exceptionally fun and educational day. The next scheduled farm day is set to take place at the Virginia Beach Farmers Market on October 19th and 20th, with a harvest fair on Saturday, October 21st. The harvest fair is open to the public; I encourage anyone who would like to attend to please do so. It is definitely a worthwhile event.

THE OUTDOORS

Recently, a workshop to encourage landowner interest in biologically significant habitats was conducted in the New River Watershed near Galax, Virginia. Thirty-five landowners, teachers, and natural resource managers learned about these critical habitats and witnessed management techniques necessary for stewardship of these unique areas. Besides providing habitat for rare flora and fauna, these habitats can instill pride in stewardship, add to the aesthetic value, and even increase the marketability of the land.

The field component of the workshop included a trip to a state-owned Natural Area Preserve. The DCR-Division of Natural Heritage's Claiborne Woodall showed participants the management efforts underway at Big Spring Bog Natural Area Preserve. To date, DCR has mechanically and chemically removed encroaching woody vegetation, and has installed a series of deer enclosures to monitor the effects of deer herbivory in the natural area preserve. Woodall also discussed DCR's plans to use prescribed fire to remove dead materials and promote germination of native herbs and forbs.

Participants also toured the Dixon Lumber tract—a privately owned tract of timberland that includes a state-recognized critical habitat. Retired VDOF District Forester Jim Baxley and Grayson/Carroll County Forester Donnie Garman explained how the landowners have incorporated the stewardship of at least 3 state-rare plants, including the large-leaved grass of *Parnassus*, into the management of their timberland. The Virginia Department of Forestry has provided cost-share assistance to the landowners, and has burned the 6-acre site twice in the last two years.

For the finale, the participants enjoyed a lecture by retired Virginia Highlands Community College Professor Doug Ogle, a native of Hillsville, Virginia. The lecture explained how topography, geology, biology, history, and meteorology have inter-related to make the New River Plateau of Grayson and Carroll counties a biologically unique place.

The event was organized by the forestry committee of the New River Watershed Roundtable, and sponsored by Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension, the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program, the Virginia Tech Forestry Department, the New River Soil and Water Conservation District, the New River Watershed Roundtable, the New River Highlands RC & D, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage. The forestry committee of the New River Watershed Roundtable has been organizing forestry related activities and events in the New River Valley for the past four years.

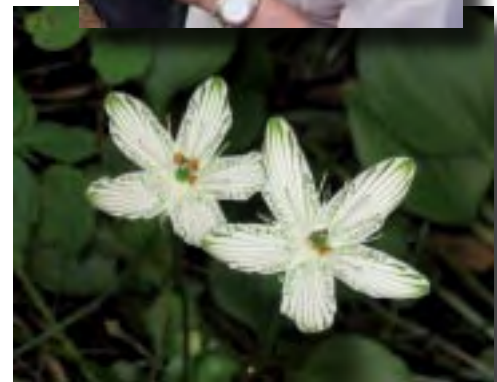
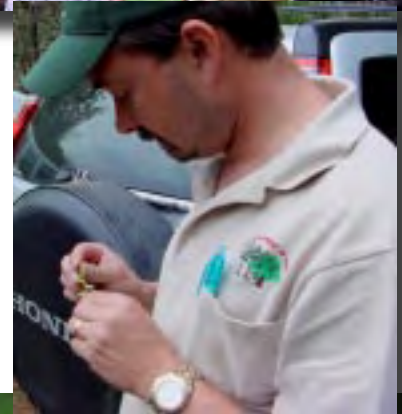
(right top) Retired DOF forester Jim Baxley and VDOF forester Donnie Garman discuss the benefits of forest stewardship management.

(right center) DOF Grayson County Forest Technician Chad Austin examines a sprig of state-rare cranberry found at the Dixon Lumber Tract on April 20th.

(right bottom) State-rare large-leaved grass of Parnassus found on the Dixon Lumber Tract April 20th. In August and September, these plants will be loaded with showy white flowers.

CRITICAL HABITATS WORKSHOP IN GALAX, VIRGINIA

Submitted by David Richert, forester, Region 6, Bland, Buchanan and Tazewell counties



CELEBRATE TH

ARBOR DAY EVENTS IN REGION 6

*Submitted by Ed Stoots, regional forester,
Region 6*

At least two Arbor Day events were held during April in Region 6 that should be noted. The first event, held on April 7th as a joint effort with the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, highlighted the Appalachian Reforestation Initiative and the Virginia Tech Powell River Project along with help from the Southwest Chapter of SAF. It involved more than 150 high school students from five different schools. Mr. Bill Dickinson – our own Deputy Secretary of Forestry and Agriculture – attended the event, traveling all the way from Richmond.

Students were able to receive information concerning the Department of Forestry; careers in forestry; the Appalachian Reforestation Initiative, which is encouraging the replanting of mined sites to commercial and native trees; and information on Virginia Tech's Powell River Project. Students received lunch in order to refill their energy after planting several thousand trees on an abandoned mine reclamation project.

Lawrence Tankersley organized the event in cooperation with DMME staff and with the help of VDOF staff Ellen Powell, Kenny Thomas, Matthew Williams (part-time), Russell Proctor, Chris Sullivan, Mary Gay Altizer, Randy Short, William Neff and Ed Stoots. Thank you to all who made this event a success for the second year in a row.

The second event took place on April 23rd in Abingdon and celebrated Abingdon's Tree City USA award – the 4th year in a row. Ed Stoots made the presentation to Mayor Lois Humphrey at the event. The highlight of the event was the planting of three trees honoring local personnel killed in action while serving in Iraq in Abingdon's newly created Veterans Park. Staff Sergeant James Estep's family planted a Dogwood, Staff Sergeant Gregory Pennington's family planted a Red "Sunset" Maple, and finally 1st Lieutenant Ryan McGlothlin's family planted a Northern Red Oak. Sen. Phillip Puckett and Del. Joe Johnson made proclamations from both the Senate and the House of Delegates to each of the three families represented. This was the third year in a row that trees have been planted in honor of veterans past and present.

After the planting of the trees, more than 75 people were on hand to obtain additional information from several agencies, including VDOF, on a wide variety of services. Brian Ledford set up a tent with displays about VDOF – nice job Brian!



THE OUTDOORS

On April 21-23, 2006, Region 6 staff again participated in the 9th Annual Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire held in Abingdon, making our fourth appearance at this event. The Garden Faire attracted more than 10,000 people from across Virginia and bordering states with vendors and agencies displaying both products to sell, services to provide and informational and educational items. The Department had planned to again provide an outdoor and indoor display – but weather prevented the outdoor display from occurring.

People attending the event not only were able to pick up various free information items, Smokey give-a-ways, and information concerning VDOF and wildfire prevention, but also make contact with VDOF and a few field visits with landowners resulted.

As always, lots of people were looking for information concerning rain gardens, their establishment and what plants to use.

Staff assisting with the event this year included Chris Sullivan (who organized our participation this year), H.F. Jones, Jana Maynard, Mary Gay Altizer, Steve Counts, Steve Wells, Randy Short, Brian Ledford and Ed Stoots. A big thank you to all who helped out!

H.F. Jones provides information to booth visitors at the Garden Faire.



THE 9TH ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC GARDEN FAIRE IN ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

*Submitted by Ed Stoots, regional forester,
Region 6*

Bob Boeren and Jon Willoughby assisted Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway with a Scenic Viewshed tree planting March 25, 2006 in Roanoke. Approximately 75 volunteers, including the new superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Phil Francis, were there to support this project. Bob had worked with Mr. Francis in Shenandoah National Park in the mid-1980s. Two hundred hardwood seedlings were planted to buffer an area that is being developed into a subdivision adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway.



VOLUNTEERS CONVERGE FOR SCENIC VIEWSHED PLANTING

*Submitted by Bob Boeren,
forester, Region 5, Botetourt
County*

HISTORIC STURGIS HOUSE

Submitted by Robbie Lewis, forester, Northampton and Accomack counties



Trees are growing up around the remaining walls of the house.



The bricks are oversized and laid in Flemish bond with headers style.



Notice the remaining part of a floor joist... this wood component had to be made from timber that was 100 to 120 years old when the house was built... and here it is still embedded in this brick wall. You can also see what is left of the cement plaster facing on the interior walls.

An interesting piece of Eastern Shore real estate, Sturgis House – named Mattissippi in colonial times – isn't faring too well. The roof is gone, and only parts of the 14-inch thick walls and chimney stacks are standing. There may not be much left, but this structure played a significant part in our history.

Sturgis House was built between 1647 and 1658 by Col. Thomas Johnson – a prominent colonist who served as sheriff, a county justice (commissioner) and as a representative from Northampton County in the House of Burgesses.

According to [History of the Eastern Shore](#) by Ralph T. Whitelaw, when Johnson was serving as a justice, there was a considerable disagreement among several justices. Johnson became the leader of a dissenting group. Things became so heated that Johnson "called the mass meeting in Dr. Hackes old field, which resulted in the Northampton Protest of 1653."

The protest was over the installation of a non-royal government – Commonwealth Parliament – in England and the colonies, headed by Oliver Cromwell. Eastern Shore colonists were Royalists and didn't take the beheading of Charles I, along with the new government, very well. A significant rise in taxes - usually paid in tobacco - also angered the colonists.

Johnson and the dissenting justices sent a proclamation to Jamestown proclaiming allegiance to Charles II, (the next royal in line) " . . . to acknowledge their Allegiance And with Genrall consent And Applause pray God to bless Charles the Second King of England... and Soe God save King Charles the Second. Amen, Amen, Amen."

"The Commonwealth Parliament sent Commissioners to take over from Gov. Berkeley and the iron hand was soon felt on the Shore." The colonists were required to take an Oath of Allegiance:

"Wee whose Names are subscribed: doe hereby Engage and promise to bee true and faithful to the Commonwealth of England as it is nowe established without Kinge or House of Lords".

No one really had a choice in the matter... Nineteen days later, Johnson and the dissenters authored another protest against the rising taxes.

Again the governor and his advisers came to the shore to deal with "this and other troublesome matters."

For his part, "Colonel Johnson was fined heavily and bound over to keep the peace" – though he continued to serve as a justice and House of Burgesses member. Johnson's protest was only an Eastern Shore affair but is "noteworthy as being the first expression in the English colonies of one of the principles ultimately involved in the American Revolution"... taxation without representation.

Enough on the Colonel... onto the house itself... In Whitelaw's book, "the little all-brick house may be the oldest now standing on the Shore, and is a rare gem of colonial architecture."

The bricks are oversized, measuring roughly 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. x 4 in. x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers [Flemish bond meaning that the bricks alternate long-face (stretcher) and short-face (header) within the same row]. The headers were kilned to appear darker than the stretchers and also have a glazed (glassy, shiny) appearance. The checkerboard appearance is the same as you see in colonial structures in Williamsburg and the Tidewater plantations.

To me, what is really amazing is the amount of history tied to places such as this. The Sturgis House site is for the most part unknown and hidden... just standing by itself in the middle of a Northampton County cut-over.

Honor Guard

HONORS OUR FELLOW FORESTRY PROFESSIONALS

ANNUAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

On June 3, 2006, the Department's Honor Guard represented us at the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service near Richmond, Virginia. Governor Tim Kaine gave some meaningful remarks for the occasion. This memorial service honored those firefighters who died during the past year. Afterwards, Governor Kaine joined the VDOF Honor Guard for a photograph.



FUNERAL SERVICES

On May 30, 2006, Michael T. Griffin was buried at Rest Vale Cemetery located in Floyd County near beautiful Check, Virginia. Mr. Griffin served the Commonwealth of Virginia for 38 years. Darlene Griffin, Mike's wife, and his stepson, Jay, requested to have the VDOF Honor Guard join them at the graveside service. There were five Honor Guard members present along with about 13 other VDOF employees, both current and retired. This was a great way to honor a man who gave so much to the VDOF family. Alex Williamson, Honor Guard leader, had the privilege of presenting Darlene with the U.S. flag during the service since Mike had served in the United States Coast Guard for eight years.



The Honor Guard was established more than 10 years ago with one of its functions being to honor those employees who had given so much to the Department of Forestry. Many of these employees have had 25-40 years of experience with the VDOF. The Guard brings something special to the family of the deceased by exhibiting our thanks to them visibly for their many years of service. We all know when employees are hired by the VDOF, their family can't help but get involved somehow. The Honor Guard is available to any retiree or current employee's family and can be requested through your local regional office.

TO OUR COMRADE... MIKE GRIFFIN

Submitted by Buck Kline, regional forester, Region 3

The Virginia Department of Forestry lost a great friend with the passing of Mike Griffin on May 24, 2006. Mike worked for the VDOF for 38 years. He started his career in 1962 as a forester in Sussex County. After eight years, Mike was promoted to management chief in the Salem Region. In 1983, Mike was appointed the regional forester for the Charlottesville Region. He worked here until his retirement in 2001.

Mike graduated from West Virginia University in 1962 with a B.S. in Forest Management. Working in the outdoors and forestry was always a passion for Mike. He always took time during his field visits to test your knowledge of forestry and wildlife. On more than one occasion, Mike would point out a particular songbird's call and give you pointers on how to remember it. Mike had a great understanding of hardwood silviculture and had a way of helping landowners and young foresters better understand it.

Mike was also a great advocate for the field personnel. He stood behind his people more than most will know. He worked hard at getting folks the supplies and materials they needed to do the job. This is something he and I discussed as recently as several months ago. I valued Mike's counsel on this and other matters. He was a good friend personally as well as professionally. He will be missed.

CHAINSAW SAFETY

*Submitted by Paul Stoneburner,
technician, Region 3, Albemarle County*



DID YOU KNOW?

- ✦ When a chain saw is at full speed, more than 600 teeth pass a given point per second.
- ✦ One in 5 chain saw injuries are from kickback.
- ✦ A muffler on a chain saw can reach as much as 900 degrees F.
- ✦ A chain saw chain can move up to 68 miles per hour.

At any time, we could be called upon to cut a burning snag on a fire or clear a fallen tree from a roadway. Every VDOF employee should keep their chainsaw "fire-ready" at all times. The chain brake, throttle interlock, broken chain catcher, proper chain tension, chain sharpness and tightness of all handles and guards are safety features and should be checked each day or before each use.

Before you start to cut, make sure you have the proper safety equipment. The following list is required safety equipment each time a chainsaw is used:

- ◆ Hardhat
- ◆ Hearing protection ear muffs or plugs
- ◆ Eye protection safety glasses, goggles or wire mesh screen
 - ◆ Leather gloves
 - ◆ Chaps (must extend 2 inches past the top of boots minimum)
 - ◆ Leather boots (minimum 8-inch top and aggressive sole for maximum traction)
 - ◆ Plastic wedges (several sizes)

After the chainsaw and safety equipment check is complete, it is time to start the saw. There are two acceptable methods to start the saw. Place the saw on the ground and place your foot in the rear handle, grip the front handle with the left hand and pull the starter cord with the right hand. My favorite method is: while standing, place the rear handle behind the right thigh just above back of the knee, grip the front handle with the left hand and pull the starter cord with the right hand. **DO NOT DROP START THE SAW**, not only is it unsafe, it also violates OSHA regulations.

- ◆ The chain brake should be engaged when starting the saw, when taking more than two steps with the saw running or whenever both hands are not on the saw.
- ◆ When cutting, always keep the thumb wrapped under the handles, this helps protect the operator from kickback.
- ◆ Wedges should be used when felling or bucking to prevent the bar from being pinched.
- ◆ When bucking a tree on a slope, the operator must be on the uphill side of the tree. When falling a snag (dead or dying tree), the saw operator should stand and cut the tree at a comfortable level that allows the fastest and safest retreat as the tree begins to fall.
- ◆ All cutting should be done to the right side of the operator, crossing the saw to the left side significantly increases the risk of injury.
- ◆ Always know where the tip of your bar is to prevent kickback. Kickback occurs when the upper half of the bar tip contacts an object.
- ◆ Never cut alone, chainsaw operators should work in pairs for maximum safety.
- ◆ Nighttime falling of snags is discouraged due to the difficulty in seeing overhead hazards.

Develop a plan before starting a falling or bucking operation. The following should be a part of this plan.

- ◆ Hazards: Look up, down and around for powerlines, snags, vines, loose branches, and other people in the area.

- ◆ Determine the falling direction and how you will deal with forward lean, back lean and/or side lean.
- ◆ Identify and clear a retreat path 135 degrees from the intended direction of fall of the tree. You want to retreat 20 feet from the stump before the tree contacts the ground.
- ◆ Determine the proper hinge size to safely guide the tree to the ground.
- ◆ Use proper felling methods to safely fell the tree. A face-cut and back-cut are required each time you fall a tree.

Chainsaws, when not used properly, are dangerous tools. Proper maintenance and care can help reduce the risks when using a chainsaw. Wear all required personal protective equipment for your own protection.

Most importantly, each employee must understand that if you encounter a tree that you feel is unsafe or you don't think you have the experience or equipment to handle the job, you can "turn down" the assignment. You must flag the area to keep other people away from the hazard, notify your supervisor of the situation and request help to mitigate the hazard.

Every day when I leave home for work, my goal is to return home at the end of the day safely. It should be your goal also.

For more information on chainsaw safety and practical experience using a chainsaw, plan to attend the S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw Course.



SERVICE AWARDS RECEPTION

Submitted by Janet Muncy, graphic specialist, Public Information Division

On May 11-12, 2006, we honored employees who have served the Department of Forestry for 25 years or more. An informal gathering was held Thursday evening for all to share stories about the old times. Friday began with an animal husbandry tour of Colonial Williamsburg. We arrived back at the Woodlands Hotel in time for a wonderful lunch and presentation of service awards. Deputy Secretary Bill Dickinson and State Forester Carl Garrison presented each employee with their service award. Participants were able to bring a family member and were given a pass to tour Colonial Williamsburg. VDOF thanks you for your dedicated service to the natural resources of Virginia and VDOF:

25 Years of Service

- Buck Kline, regional forester, Region 3
- Junius Miles, equipment operator, Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
- Kenny Mohler, technician, Region 5
- Steve Moyer, technician, Region 3

30 Years of Service

- Bruce Edwards, technician, Region 1
- Sam Barkley, forester, Region 3
- Wayne Bowman, research forester, Resource Information
- Rita Moore, benefits administrator, Human Resources
- Sandra Stephens, administrative services specialist, Region 3

35 Years of Service

- Jim Clark, forester, Region 5
- Carrington Newsome, equipment repair technician, Region 2
- Richard Thomas, assistant director for operations, Resource Protection
- Greg Winston, regional forester, Region 4
- Charlie Yopp, technician, Region 5



L→R (back row) Sam Barkley, Steve Moyer, Kenny Mohler; (middle row) Carl Garrison, Greg Winston, Wayne Bowman, Sandra Stephens, Jim Clark, Buck Kline, Deputy Secretary Bill Dickinson; (front row) Carrington Newsome, Rita Moore.



WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY PACKS 'EM IN

*Submitted by John Campbell, director,
Public Information Division*

A total of 450 firefighters registered for the annual Wildland Fire Academy held May 16 – 21 at Fort Pickett, near Blackstone, Virginia. This is the largest class ever enrolled in the history of the Wildland Fire Academy.

Students had their choice of 17 classes that covered everything from basic wildland fire fighting to fire tractor operations to emergency vehicle operations to leadership and planning.

"We've always had great interest in the Wildland Fire Academy," said John Miller, director of resource protection. "But because last year's Bedford Academy was cancelled due to relief efforts associated with Hurricane Katrina, we had a record enrollment this year."

Firefighters from across the Commonwealth and several other states took part in the specialized training – the highlights of which were the two actual night fires that were the capstone exercises of the fire tractor/plow courses. Students in the fire tractor/plow courses spent three days learning the ins and outs of safe and effective operations. On the evening of the third day, a real wildland fire was ignited and the students were required to combat the fire using only their fire tractor/plow units.

One student said, "I've been operating a bulldozer for years, but this course really taught me a lot. I'd say it's one of the best classes I've ever taken anywhere."

The Virginia Department of Forestry is the lead agency for the Wildland Fire Academy. Several other agencies – including the USDA Forest Service; the US Fish and Wildlife Service; the Virginia Department of Fire Programs; the Virginia National Guard, and a number of others – play an important role in the success of this vital training program.



Tractor operations training gives students real hands-on experience in the seat.



S-230 Single Resource Boss class uses a sandbox to demonstrate various firefighting scenarios.

EVOC class trained students on the operation of a variety of emergency vehicles.



The tractor operations instructors plan the exercises for the Tractor Operations class.

TO HAL MYERS... A FELLOW EMPLOYEE AND FRIEND

Submitted by Martha Warring, forester, Region 3, Nelson County

On March 27, 2006 the Virginia Department of Forestry lost a good friend and employee. If you never met Hal Myers, you missed out on knowing a truly unique individual. If you are one of the fortunate who knew Hal, I don't have to tell you, he will be missed. Hal was the kind of person who knew no strangers. When he first met people, he made them feel as if they had known each other for years. He had a knack for being able to carry on a conversation with anybody and could always find something in common as well. He could communicate well with the tree planters, landowners, kids and even politicians. Hal lived in Amherst all his life. He worked for the Sheriff's Department, coached and umpired for baseball and softball, and was an avid hunter. Spring gobbler season seemed to be his favorite. I don't think there are too many people in Amherst County who didn't know Hal, and most of them had an interesting story about him.

Hal's sense of humor is probably what we remember most. If you were around him for any length of time, it was impossible not to smile. He always had a hunting story, a joke or a life experience that would make you laugh and wish you could tell again to someone else. I could never tell it as well as Hal.

Hal enjoyed spending time with children, whether it was as Smokey, Dixie League Youth Ball, or with his granddaughter. He was an excellent Smokey. He definitely stole the show when he stepped out as Smokey Bear. He would be willing to stay in the suit no matter how hot, until every kid had a hug or a high-five. He made sure there were enough rulers, pencils, color sheets or what ever to go around. Hal coached his kid's baseball and softball teams, as well as lots of other kids throughout his years with the Dixie League. He was also an umpire and did his best to make sure the kids played ball and the parents behaved. His pride and joy over the last year and a half was his granddaughter, Peyton. At first, he was concerned about being a Grandpa. It didn't take long for him to start planning on all the things he was going to do with her, like fishing, hunting and playing ball. His daughter would bring Peyton by the office and Hal would carry her around, playing with her; being a totally different person than I was used to seeing. It always seemed when you thought you knew the man, he would do something to surprise you.

Fire was something Hal fussed about quite often, but when the call came, he was at his best. Eddie Embrey once told Hal, "When the chips are down, you're the man I want watching my back." Volunteer Fire Departments, Sheriff's Department and co-workers all respected Hal's knowledge of fire and its behavior, especially on mountainous terrain. Hal always wanted to be part of the action and standby was definitely not something he liked doing. During the Norwood fire, he wore out the screen door at the Amherst office going in and out, looking at the smoke, itching to be on the fire. When he finally got on the fire, he was assigned the task of constructing a fire line with the dozer to a beaver pond and meeting up with another dozer from the opposite direction. In the dark, he found the beaver pond and the other dozer. He didn't let us forget it either. Hal had an interesting way to test the fire danger rating in Amherst. He would go out to the front yard at the office and light the grass with his lighter. How quickly it spread and how much he had to stomp determined how bad a fire day it would be. Fortunately it never got away from him, but I do remember an occasional day when there was a lot of stomping (please don't try this at home or the office).

I know all of us who knew Hal will miss him dearly. He was one of a kind. I am fortunate to have worked with him, and I can honestly say there was never a dull day in Amherst County while Hal was there.





Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

Ed Furlow is our new Orange County technician in Region 3. He received his bachelor's in forestry from Virginia Tech. Most recently, he worked for Arboristry Associates and previously worked for the USDA Forest Service as a forest technician. Ed also speaks Spanish.

Travis Rivers is our new Patrick County technician in Region 5. He received his bachelor's in forestry from Virginia Tech. He has been working as a logger/timber cruiser for Rivers Logging and previously worked for Breedlove Logging.

Abraham Bear is our new Isle of Wight County forester in Region 1. Abraham is finishing his bachelor's in forestry at Purdue University. He has worked as a forester and forestry technician with the City of West Lafayette and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He has experience fighting wildfires and has his red card.

Bret Robinson is our new Northern Virginia technician in Region 3. Bret is completing his bachelor's in forest science from Penn State. He has served as a GIS technician for Penn State and a forestry intern for the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

David Schnake is our new Powhatan County forester in Region 4. David is completing his bachelor's in forest management from Colorado State University. He has served as a forestry intern for both the University of Wisconsin and Colorado State University.

Brian Schneider is our new King William County forester in Region 2. Brian received his bachelor's in forestry from the University of Vermont and his master's in forestry from the University of Maine. He has served as a forester for Fountain Forestry in Vermont and has extensive training in BMPs.

Tanya White is our new Program Support Technician for Region 1. Tanya worked for Dominion-Virginia Power for 18 years.

Brad Wireman is our new Lancaster and Northumberland counties technician in Region 2. Brad recently completed his bachelor's in forestry from Ohio State. He has worked with the Ohio Division of Forestry and the National Park Service. He has wildland firefighting experience and has his red card.

Todd Groh is our new assistant director for resource management. Todd started his career with VDOF after receiving his bachelor's in forestry from Michigan Technological University. He started as a forester trainee in Waverly, then moved into a forester position in Kilmarnock, and finally served as a forester in Troutville. Todd left us to work for the Florida Division of Forestry as their conservation programs manager and most recently worked for the West Virginia Division of Forestry as their assistant state forester for Forest Management and Stewardship.

Tom Harlan is our new water quality engineer in Region 2. He received his bachelor's in forestry from North Carolina State University. Most recently, he worked as a forester with American Forest Management. He has extensive experience working in the logging industry and ensuring BMPs are followed on logging sites. Tom will be working out of the Sandston office.

Mark Webb is our new FIA forester for Region 2. Mark has his bachelor's in biological science and his master's in forest resources from Clemson University. He is working as a resource specialist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

RETIREMENTS

After 38 years of service with the Department of Forestry, **Jim Bowen**, assistant state forester, has decided to turn off his calculator and hit the road on July 1! We hope you will join us in wishing Jim well in his retirement.

Jesse Rivers, technician at Garland Gray Forestry Center, is parking his tractor after 20 years! Jesse retires July 1 and has our very best wishes for a happy retirement!

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

Reggie Barthelemy, assistant fiscal director in the Fiscal Division, resigned to accept the position of fiscal director with the Virginia State Bar.

Randy Clawson, equipment repair technician for Region 6, resigned to accept a position with a private trucking company.

Stephen Morris, technician for Cumberland County in Region 4, resigned to accept a position with private industry.

Jeff Francisco, technician for Halifax County in Region 4, resigned to accept a

great opportunity in private industry.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Ron Jenkins, general services director, has accepted the position of assistant state forester for policy, planning, and budget.

David Richert, forester for Tazewell County in Region 6, has accepted the RC&D forester position for the Western Virginia.

Joe Rossetti, FIA forester for Region 1, transferred to the forester for Prince George and Surry counties in Region 1.

Phil Carpenter, regional technician for Region 3, has moved into the position of resource specialist/pilot in the Resource Protection Division.

Anna Cahoon, forester for Prince George and Surry Counties in Region 1, has accepted the position of RC&D Forester for Eastern Virginia. She will work out of the Dinwiddie County office in Region 1.

Randy Fleming, technician for Wise County in Region 6, transferred to the technician position in Washington County.

Derek Keiser, technician for Pittsylvania County in Region 5, has transferred to the technician position for Amherst County in Region 3.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Steve Wells, technician for Russell County in Region 6, and Jennifer Wilson were married on April 28th. Best wishes to the newlyweds for a long and happy marriage.

Jason Braunstein, GIS technician in Resource Information, married his sweetheart, Heather, in May. Best wishes to the happy couple for a long, happy marriage.

NEW ARRIVALS

Connie Young, forestry worker at Garland Gray Forestry Center, became a grandmother for the second time. Granddaughter, Ava Nichole, was born on March 30th weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces.

Mike Foreman, riparian and land conservation manager in the Forest Management Division, became a grandpa on June 8th. His daughter, Emily, gave birth to a beautiful 6-pound, 15-ounce baby girl, Madison Riley Daidone.

Alan Craft, technician for Alleghany County in Region 5, is a grandpa again. His son,

Joshua, and daughter-in-law, Krista, had a son on May 25th, Calvin Ashby Craft.

Steve Counts, resource coordinator for Region 6, is a new grandpa. His son, Matthew, and daughter-in-law, Kristina, had a baby boy on May 21st. Lucas Jackson Counts was 7.5 pounds.

Greg Farrish, buildings and grounds carpenter in the General Services Division, and his wife, Tammy, are the proud parents of a baby girl. Emma Grace was born May 23rd, and weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

Tom Callahan, FIA forester for Region 4, and his wife, Cynthia, welcomed a new daughter to their family. Shauna Lily was born on May 11th and weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces. Shauna and big sister Cora are doing great.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Lauren Ingle, daughter of **Tammy Ingle** at Cumberland State Forest and husband Kevin, received her letter of acceptance to the

College of William and Mary in Williamsburg! We were told last month while on a tour there that they received 11,000 applications last year yet only 1,300 were accepted. Lauren was also Valedictorian of her senior class at Cumberland High School with a grade point average of 4.273. Lauren plans to become a Web designer or computer programmer. We're very proud of her. — Tammy and Kevin Ingle

CONDOLENCES

Ron Jenkins, assistant state forester for policy, planning and budget, suffered the tragic loss of his daughter who died in May. Heather Jenkins was 32 years old and lived in South Richmond.

Greg Winston, regional forester in Region 4, lost his father-in-law, Robert Chennault of Ferriday, Louisiana, in March.

LeRoy Collins, retiree from the Central Office Mechanic Shop, lost his wife, Lucille, in March.

Hal Myers, technician for Amherst County in Region 3, died at his home March 27th.

John Pemberton, FIA coordinator, Resource Information Division, lost his mother, Mrs. Emma Pemberton. She passed away at age 88 on April 4th.

Bob Kennedy, forester for Bedford County in Region 5, and wife, Lois, suffered the loss of their daughter, Laura Shick. Laura passed away in April at age 36.

Donald Parrott, retired technician for Greene County in Region 3, lost his father, Brightberry Parrott, in May. Brightberry, who also retired from Department of Forestry as chief forest warden of Greene and Madison counties, started with VDOF in August 1961 and retired December 1973. He was 91 years old.

David "Dickie" Bruce, buildings and grounds carpenter in the General Services Division, recently lost his foster father. Alfred Shifflett was 92.

Dirk Hillegass, forester for Pittsylvania County in Region 5, recently lost his grandfather.

Michael Griffin, retired regional forester in Region 3, died on May 24. Mike retired in May 2001.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who called and sent cards and emails while I was out during my recent surgery. I appreciate your thoughts and kindness during my recovery time.

Thank you,

Hope Tyzinski, Region 5

Many thanks for the phone calls, flowers, visits and expressions of condolence during the passing of my father. My family and I appreciate your acts of kindness.

Donald Lee Parrott, retired, Region 3



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Susan P. Tennant (R4) ~ July 3
Brad A. Wireman (R2) ~ July 5
Donald J. Giegerich (R4) ~ July 6
Robert W. Farrell (R2) ~ July 7
Kevin W. Keith (R5) ~ July 8
Joshua McLaughlin (AG) ~ July 9
William B. Hall (R4) ~ July 11
A. Kenneth Thomas (R6) ~ July 13
David K. Schnake (R4) ~ July 14
James W. Jarvis (R4) ~ July 15
Dennis C. Gaston (R2) ~ July 15
Paul B. Geyer (Ret) ~ July 15
William Shumaker (SF) ~ July 17
Michael T. Salyer (R4) ~ July 19
Christopher Sullivan (R6) ~ July 20
David E. Jones (R6) ~ July 20
John A. Scrivani (CO) ~ July 20
Junius Miles (SF) ~ July 21
Anne M. Skalski (CO) ~ July 22
Jennifer C. Carver (CO) ~ July 22
James M. McGlone (R3) ~ July 23

Vance A. Blick (GG) ~ July 24
D. Drew Arnn (R5) ~ July 25
Phillip N. Carpenter (CO) ~ July 25
Tammy C. Ingle (SF) ~ July 26
Nelson D. Jarvis (R2) ~ July 27
Christopher Thomsen (R5) ~ July 30
Joseph D. Rossetti (R1) ~ Aug. 3
John R. Robinson (R1) ~ Aug. 6
Charlie M. Yopp (R5) ~ Aug. 6
Jimmy R. Steele (Ret) ~ Aug. 6
Leonard L. Tennant (Ret) ~ Aug. 10
Jerry W. Bailey (R2) ~ Aug. 10
J. Miller Adams (R4) ~ Aug. 12
J. Richard Inge (Ret) ~ Aug. 13
Dennis R. McCarthy (R5) ~ Aug. 14
Larry W. Estes (AG) ~ Aug. 15
John E. Seaquist (Ret) ~ Aug. 16
Charles L. Rammell (Ret) ~ Aug. 18
J. Michael Foreman (CO) ~ Aug. 19
Donald L. Hixson (Ret) ~ Aug. 20
Heather E. Manson (R1) ~ Aug. 20

Scott G. Bachman (R1) ~ Aug. 21
Kathy F. Frazier (Ret) ~ Aug. 22
E. Pickett Upshaw (R2) ~ Aug. 23
Thomas A. Snoddy (R2) ~ Aug. 26
Peter E. O'Brien (ret) ~ Aug. 27
C. Cody Daniels (R1) ~ Aug. 27
Warren E. Coburn (R2) ~ Aug. 28
Avond M. Randolph (SF) ~ Sept. 1
Angela L. Conary (R1) ~ Sept. 2
Michael A. Santucci (R3) ~ Sept. 3
Earl "Bobby" Atkins (Ret) ~ Sept. 4
Thomas L. Frazier (AG) ~ Sept. 5
William B. Neff (R6) ~ Sept. 5
David E. Bruce (CO) ~ Sept. 6
James E. Bowen (Ret) ~ Sept. 7
Charlene O. Bardon (R4) ~ Sept. 7
Judith A. Okay (CO) ~ Sept. 8
Alton L. Dean (AG) ~ Sept. 9
Lisa A. Krajewski (R2) ~ Sept. 9
Randy A. Short (R6) ~ Sept. 9
Larry J. Cochran (CO) ~ Sept. 12

Calvin E. Ricks (Ret) ~ Sept. 12
H. Gwynn Tyler (R4) ~ Sept. 14
Antonia Sanderson (R1) ~ Sept. 14
Anna K. Cahoon (R1) ~ Sept. 16
Donald G. Drake (Ret) ~ Sept. 16
Charles H. Knoeller (R2) ~ Sept. 16
Carrington Newsome (R2) ~ Sept. 16
Dirk D. Hillegass (R5) ~ Sept. 20
W. Alex Williamson (R4) ~ Sept. 21
Robert K. Boeren (R5) ~ Sept. 21
Joseph W. Schaefer (CO) ~ Sept. 23
Herbert M. Reynolds (R3) ~ Sept. 26

Mail Bag

To: David Powell, Virginia Department of Forestry

Ref: Forest Technician John Hisghman's actions on the evening of April 3, 2006

I am writing this letter commending the actions of one of your subordinates while off duty. On April 3rd at approximately 5:30 p.m., my mother, who is 78 years old, left my house during a rain storm to meet the family in town for dinner. While traveling southbound in the 6200 block of North Frederick Pike, the rain had loosened rocks on the embankment of the roadway, these rocks then fell into the roadway striking my mother's car causing the right rear tire to disintegrate. Mr. Hisghman drove past my mother and then turned around and returned to her location. In the pouring rain, he changed the tire for her, which was more than most people would have done, he then continued to assist her by following her into town and ensuring that she safely arrived at her destination.

In this era of road rage... and general disregard for our fellow human being's welfare, it is nice to see that chivalry still exists. An employee like Mr. Hisghman is an asset to your organization and should be recognized as such. If the Forestry Department has an award, such as employee of the month or year, I wholeheartedly believe it would be remiss if Mr. Hisghman was not nominated for such an award or higher recognition.

Arthur L. Varnau, Cross Junction, Virginia

Contacts AND INFORMATION

Submit articles to:
Janet Muncy, editor
janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov

Submit articles by email. Simple text is best. Color photos, slides, negatives, or high-quality digital photos are all acceptable. Clearly label photos including to whom they should be returned.

The deadlines are as follows:

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2006

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2006

Spring Issue -- February 1, 2007

Summer Issue -- May 1, 2007

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please notify of address corrections