



# FORESTRY *ews*

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

**MISSION:**

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

## EASTERN DEAF TIMBERFEST COMES TO NATURAL BRIDGE, VIRGINIA

*Submitted by Karen Stanley, forester, Region 5, Rockbridge County*

The July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend brought hundreds of families from all over the country to scenic Rockbridge County. But it wasn't the fireworks display or the hot air balloon rally in Lexington that drew them. Hundreds of deaf and hearing impaired people and their families spent the holiday near Natural Bridge to enjoy the sights and participate in timber sports and other popular activities at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Deaf Timberfest. The Virginia Department of Forestry was there to lend a hand and spread Smokey's message of wildfire prevention and Firewise home safety.

The VDOF's involvement began weeks before the actual event, however. The event coordinators were not local to the area and were hearing impaired, so they contacted the VDOF for assistance in getting logs donated for the timber sports, and help in moving them. Ken Mohler and Denny McCarthy used local contacts and lined up poplar logs of varying sizes from local sawmill W.R. Deacon & Sons. The Glenwood-Pedlar District of the USDA Forest Service donated their time and use of a tractor to move the logs into place for the competition.

The new Firewise display trailer provided a bit of shade and a lot of information during the Timberfest. Local sign language interpreters assisted Denny McCarthy, Charlie Becker and Karen Stanley as they answered questions and handed out information and Smokey goodies. Most of the items were very popular, but the hand held ashtrays weren't moving too quickly. We later learned that many hearing impaired people don't smoke because it interferes with signing!



*(above) VDOF helped provide materials needed for the lumberjack competitions.*



*(left) Interpreter Pat Rexrode signs Smokey's 60<sup>th</sup> program for a deaf teacher.*

Carl Garrison,  
State Forester

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# Message

## FROM THE STATE FORESTER



I'm sure you've seen some of our new information and education materials that we've developed during the past 18 months. From the new banner-up displays for Forest Management to the Firewise trailers to the private label water bottles, our messages are being delivered to the citizens of Virginia in bold fashion. One of these important messages is "Virginia's forests are more than just trees." In addition to timber, our forests provide a number of benefits, including carbon sequestration, recreation and water quality.

Of course, no one has to tell any of our field staff that water quality has become a major responsibility of the Virginia Department of Forestry. In just a few short years, water quality inspections have grown from 2,300 annually to more than 5,000 a year. While I can't overstate the importance of our role in ensuring the quality of Virginia's water – a vital role that will only continue to grow – I also know how much additional work this has meant for our field folks. Trying to juggle everything from water quality inspections, landowner services and wildland fire suppression to conservation education, reforestation efforts and many other important tasks has become increasingly more difficult. But help is on the way!

As part of our legislative initiatives package, we requested 15 new positions specifically for water quality work. While we didn't get all 15, we did receive funding to hire eight water quality specialists. An ad-hoc committee was assembled to determine how to best deploy and utilize these essential positions. The decision was made to place one water quality specialist each in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4. Regions 5 and 6 will each get two water quality specialists. Unfortunately, this is not a panacea, but it will strengthen our capabilities and provide some much-needed balance in the workloads of our field staff. I will continue to seek opportunities for improvements.

The quality of Virginia's water – and, ultimately, the quality of life for all our citizens – depends upon each of us. Let's remember this as we move forward.

*Carl Harrison*  
State Forester

## EASTERN DEAF TIMBERFEST COMES TO NATURAL BRIDGE, VIRGINIA

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Smokey Bear made several appearances, despite the hot sun, to excited children and adults alike. He even participated in the raising of the American flag with his new bear buddy, Yogi, the patron of the campground where the event was held. He was so busy greeting people and posing for photos that he wasn't able to participate in the timber sports scheduled. He and Yogi had planned to participate in the two-man cross cut.

Some of the other interesting events held included tug-of-war and a keg throwing contest. Yes, full kegs.

Despite the heat, the event was a great success for the Department. Hopefully the message of wildfire safety and prevention will travel beyond the boundaries of the Commonwealth and back home with each and every family.



# Awards AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## CHARLES W. BECKER III NAMED WINNER OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO FORESTRY AWARD FOR 2006

*Submitted by Stephen D. Delappe, chairman, Skyline Chapter of Society of American Foresters*

This award by the Virginia Division Appalachian Society of American Foresters is presented annually to an individual who has made an especially notable contribution to the profession of forestry.

Charlie Becker has written more than 20 articles for both general and professional publications, including Virginia Forests, the Forestry News, and Forest Products Journal.

He has made more than 50 presentations on a number of forestry topics, including the economic importance of Virginia's Forests, alternative forest products, and value-added forest products. He was selected as the State of Virginia Forest Products Representative on special assignments at two international trade fairs in Europe in 2001 and 2005.

Charlie Becker's record of professional forestry involvement with Society of American Foresters is outstanding. He has held many leadership roles and attended the 2004 National SAF Leadership Academy. His leadership included being Chair of the SW VA Chapter; Chair of the Skyline Chapter; Chair 2002 Virginia Division Summer Meeting, and culminated in being Chair of the APSAF Virginia Division in 2004. Charlie's efforts have continued as the Publicity Chair for the very successful APSAF 2006 Annual Meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia.



*David Powell (left) presents Charlie Becker (right), Resource Information Division, with the 2006 Distinguished Service to Forestry Award.*

## CAREER DAY IN DINWIDDIE

*Submitted by Heather Manson, forester, Region 1, Dinwiddie County*

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Southside Elementary School in Dinwiddie County held its annual Career Day. The Department of Forestry and Smurfit-Stone Container treated students to a "tour" of forestry professions. The foresters from Smurfit-Stone discussed timber management and cruising, while "flagging" students as trees for a harvest. Then it was off to the portable sawmill to see how trees become boards. From there, students carried their board to the next stop to talk about products which are made from lumber, while building a birdhouse for their classroom. Finally, they came to the VDOF station to talk about forest protection, fire prevention and firefighting.





# Landowner

## EDUCATION

### FORESTRY TOUR IN TAZEWELL COUNTY DEMONSTRATES SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

On June 13, 2006, 34 landowners, teachers and natural resource professionals participated in a day-long Tazewell County Forestry Management workshop. Sponsored by the Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Delegate Dan Bowling – this was an introduction to sustainable forest management, and an opportunity to learn about forests by spending time in the woods.

Delegate Bowling kicked off the workshop with a warm welcome and a reminder of the many environmental and economic benefits of forests. Then it was off to the first stop on the tour – a 16-acre forest that had been clear-cut two years earlier. The participants poured out of the vans and began exploring the site. Although nearly all the trees had been harvested in 2003, already the area was teeming with thousands of small seedlings (planted by none other than Mother Nature) and stump sprouts head high or higher. Generously interspersed among the yellow poplar, black cherry, maple and oak seedlings were blackberries, pokeberries and other leafy plants – an “all you can eat buffet” for wildlife.

Being able to explore this managed forest was a valuable teaching tool – not only did it stimulate questions, but it provided ready answers. Another asset was the half-dozen or so natural resource professionals who turned up for the event. These professional consulting foresters, industry foresters, state agency foresters and timber buyers were able to answer participants’ questions – drawing from a wealth of experience working in the forestry field.

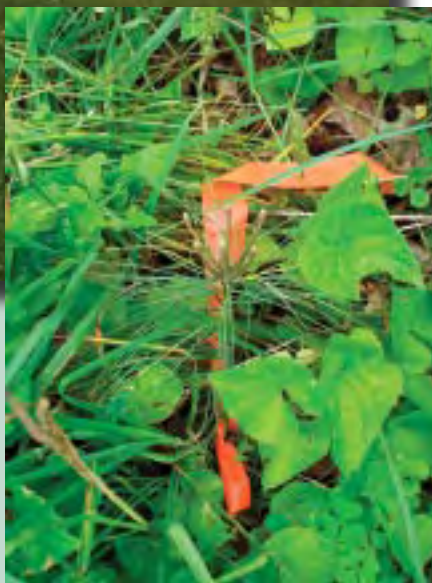
But by far the most valuable part of the workshop was the attendance of the two landowners who had generously invited the participants to tour their land. At the first stop on the tour, Paul Stevens described the steps he took to sell some of his timber – contacting the Virginia Department of Forestry, hiring a professional consulting forester, preparing a timber sale prospectus, and finally, accepting a bid and supervising the timber harvesting process. The participants learned how Mr. Stevens implemented a pre-harvest plan, installed measures to protect water quality, and left a buffer of trees along the stream – to stabilize the streambanks and maintain the cool water temperatures.

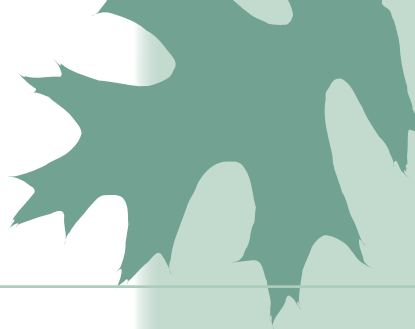
After a catered lunch, the group visited Wanda Partyka's farm in Burke's Garden. Ms. Partkya explained how she received a customized Forest Stewardship Plan from the Virginia Department of Forestry and how she is using this information to manage 40 acres of previously-grazed forest land. Participants saw a work in progress – seedlings had been planted, crooked trees had been culled to improve the quality of the timber and fencing had recently been installed to exclude cattle from the woods.

Judging by the amount of questions, the numerous “sidebar” discussions, and the overall level of participation, this workshop was a success. When Tazewell County Southern District Supervisor James Durham thanked the participants for their attendance, he suggested that this tour would be a good event to hold annually. Given the demand for information on sustainable forest management, it is likely that the Tazewell County Forest Management Workshop will be a repeat event.



*Eastern white  
pine seedling  
planted in  
former pasture  
in Burke's  
Garden,  
Virginia.*





## 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VASWCD'S YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP A SUCCESS

*Submitted by: Bill Perry, forester, Region 3, Amherst County, and Justin Hancock, forester, Region 1, Greensville County*

July 9, 2006 through July 15, 2006 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Youth Conservation Camp held annually at Virginia Tech. Sponsored by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 49 selected high school students (age 14 to 18) participated in hands-on learning about agriculture, forestry, wildlife, fisheries, soils, water quality and Best Management Practices. Many of the Commonwealth's partner agencies were involved with the camp, including the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Department of Forestry. Participating students from across the state took part in a wide variety of conservation and environmental activities that emphasized the missions of Virginia's state agencies.

Even though we skirmished with powerful thunderstorms that appeared daily with little to no warning, the campers learned a lot about natural resources and had a great time. Only one activity had to be cancelled due to the rain, which of course was the forestry part. Even without the opportunity to give our formal presentation about forestry, we were still able to teach the campers about some of the issues our forests are facing. We talked about forest succession and the effects of introduced pests, such as the hemlock woolly adelgid, during a hike to the cascades waterfall. We also hiked the War Spur trail near Mountain Lake Resort, where we were able to discuss the American chestnut trees and walk through an old growth forest of hemlock, red spruce and table mountain pine. As part of the camp, we toured the Brooks Forest Products Center at Virginia Tech where they develop and research different wood-based composite building and packaging materials.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries demonstrated fish shocking at Claytor Lake and allowed campers to net stunned fish as they topped the water. They witnessed and discussed the importance of maintaining healthy fish populations.

The week-long camp consisted of many different hands-on activities. The campers were also able to see how different forest, agriculture and urban land uses could affect water quality and to learn about actions that are being implemented to lessen these effects. The implementation of Best Management Practices on Kentland Farms, such as hardwood tree planting along Toms Creek and an armored low-water crossing, were discussed during a wagon ride through the hillsides of the farm. The students even participated in a GPS scavenger hunt; learned about water quality monitoring, and studied soil horizons at a soil pit along the New River.

These young adults had the opportunity to speak with natural resource management professionals and learn about different career options. The camp was a long week of little sleep and a lot of activity, but very rewarding for us. It amazes me how much the campers were able to learn during the week. My hopes are that this experience will leave a lasting impression on these young adults and encourage them to make a difference in our world.



*The campers were excited when they netted the largest fish of the day, a 33-pound flathead catfish.*



*Students from across the state came to Blacksburg for the 2006 VASWCD Youth Conservation Camp.*

To learn more details about the Youth Conservation Camp, refer to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Web site at [www.vaswcd.org](http://www.vaswcd.org).



# UNIQUE

## ANCIENT CYPRESS- TUPELO TREES DISCOVERED IN SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

Submitted by Matthew Jedra, forester, Region 1,  
Southampton County



Ancient Cypress-tupelo forest along the  
Nottoway River, Courtland, Virginia.  
Photo: Gary P. Fleming / © DCR Natural  
Heritage



Approximately 38 acres of a 650-acre tract of ancient forest dominated by bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) trees were discovered along the Nottoway River in Southampton County. Byron Carmean, a retired horticulture teacher, discovered the trees in the fall of 2005. These trees are part of a tract owned by International Paper Company. Carmean, who has a passion for hunting big trees, contacted the Virginia Natural Heritage Program to inform them about his discovery. In late September, he and Gary Fleming, an ecologist for the natural heritage program, went looking for the giants.

Carmean, who finds and nominates trees for the Virginia Remarkable Tree Program, has also discovered many other remarkable trees in the area, including the new national champ Carolina ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) and two co-state champs, swamp cottonwood (*Populus heterophylla*) and overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*), along with the largest tree in Virginia, a bald cypress. With a circumference of 35.6 feet (11.3 feet dbh), this bald cypress could possibly be the largest bald cypress in the United States. Currently, the oldest known trees in the east are in a cypress preserve on the Black River in southern North Carolina. The oldest bald cypress tree there has been aged at 1,700 years old and has a circumference of 29.6 feet (9.4 feet dbh). Since the tree in Southampton County is almost 2 feet larger than the bald cypress tree in North Carolina, this just might be the largest tree east of the Mississippi River and could potentially be the oldest bald cypress in the country.

These ancient cypress-tupelo swamps are ecologically important rare ecosystems that once dominated the rivers of southeastern Virginia. These areas represent a rich and diverse ecosystem with many benefits to the environment, humans, and wildlife. "It's amazing to see vegetation growing out of the trunks and branches of other trees," Carmean said. With a vast majority of the cypress-tupelo forest in southeastern Virginia harvested in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, very few ancient forests exist today. Cypress-tupelo forests exist throughout the south from the upper tidal reaches in Maryland to Florida, to eastern Texas and north to the southern lake states.

Currently, the Virginia Natural Heritage Program is looking to acquire the 650-acre tract to protect the ancient forest. Researchers, such as Mary Kay Clark, the Southeast bat conservation director for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission-Wildlife Management Division, was the first to document extensive use of the cypress-gum community by two rare species of bats: Rafinesque's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) and the southeastern bat (*Myotis austroriparius*). Clark radio-tracked and otherwise located these species in their day roosts in the Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina in the late 1990s. Other researchers are beginning to use bald cypress tree rings to reconstruct climate change in North Carolina and throughout North America.

This area of the Nottoway River is a unique ecosystem that many never knew existed. As the word spreads, people from all over are venturing to the swampy waters of the Nottoway River to take a glimpse at these magnificent trees that date back more than 1,500 years ago.

# TREES

The American chestnut tree was once one of the largest trees in Virginia and was present in about one half of the stands from the piedmont to the mountains. Not only did the American chestnut grow in Virginia, but spread from Maine to Alabama. Today, only a few people have seen an American chestnut tree, but there is still a lot of interest around this tree.

Prior to 1900, the American chestnut tree was a very valuable tree to the rural mountainous community as well as to most farmers where the tree grew. This tree was used for lumber for building homes, wood to heat those homes and roofing shingles to keep those homes dry. The nuts produced each year fed wildlife, livestock and people. Chestnuts were collected and sold for cash.

In the early 1900s, the chestnut blight was introduced into this country from chestnuts imported from Asia. Asian or Chinese chestnuts are resistant to this blight, but the American chestnuts were not and the blight spread. By the late 1920s, the blight had spread from New York throughout the entire range of the American chestnut infecting and killing chestnuts. Today, only a handful of large, surviving American chestnuts are known to be alive.

Over the years, much interest and work has been shown trying to restore the American chestnut. But the blight is still present, infecting remaining American chestnut sprouts. The Virginia Department of Forestry has been working with this tree since the 1960s. In the late 1960s, the Lesesne State Forest was donated to the Department of Forestry for the purpose of chestnut research. From 1969 to 1974, more than 10,000 hybrid chestnuts were planted at the Lesesne State Forest. Since that time, grafting and breeding work has been ongoing at the forest. The VDOF has been breeding the blight-resistant Asian chestnuts with living American chestnut survivors. Through this breeding work, hopefully, resistance from the blight can be bred into the American chestnut. Since the Chinese chestnuts have a poor form, this tree is not very good for lumber, while the American chestnut is very good for lumber. The only characteristic wanted from Chinese parent is the blight resistance. Plant breeders tell us that crosses that have  $\frac{15}{16}$  American chestnut and  $\frac{1}{16}$  Chinese chestnut genes present will look like the pure American chestnut tree and a portion of the offspring will be resistant to the chestnut blight. Once these individuals are produced, crossing can occur to have blight-resistant trees. At present, the VDOF has  $\frac{7}{8}$  American crosses growing at the Lesesne orchard. This ongoing process starts each June with chestnut flowers bagged prior to pollen naturally pollinating the hybrids. The American pollen is collected and used on the bagged flowers producing the hybrid crosses. Nuts are collected in the fall and planted in the seedbeds at our Augusta nursery to grow for one year. After growing a year, seedlings are planted again at the Lesesne site for breeding work when they, too, produce pollen and flowers. This year, more than 400 flowers were pollinated. In the spring of 2006, we planted more than 150 new seedlings from last year's breeding program in the Lesesne orchard and a similar number at the New Kent Forestry Center.

Many other groups are busy trying to produce an American chestnut that is resistant to the blight. The American chestnut cooperators foundation is busy breeding large, surviving American chestnuts to each other, hoping to enhance resistance to the blight. The American Chestnut Foundation now has crosses that are  $\frac{15}{16}$  American. These trees will be planted out in the near future for testing. I believe that blight resistant American chestnuts will be re-introduced into Virginia's woodlots in the near future.

## AMERICAN CHESTNUT RESTORATION WORK

*Submitted by Wayne Bowman, research forester,  
Resource Information Division*





# Forestry...

A FAMILY TRADITION

## FORESTRY IS IN THE FURLOW BLOOD

*Submitted by Mike Eckley, forester, Region 3, Orange County*



*Edward Furlow III, technician, Region 3, Orange County*

In February of 1952, Edward Furlow reported for work at the Charlottesville Regional Office. Here are just a few of many fond memories that were derived from working a short stint with the Virginia Department of Forestry during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

“During this time period, new forestry personnel were housed in one of the buildings on the UVA grounds. My duties included, to a large extent, timber marking. Hardwood timber was marked with a marking axe and pines were painted with a gun. I also did timberland examinations, fought forest fires and gave talks to men’s groups and schools. I also spent a day, now and then, with a local fire warden. The old boy in Nelson County was quite a character. On my first visit with him, we were driving down one of the back roads when I asked him if moonshine was really being made back in these hills. His answer was, ‘Want to try some?’ He came to an abrupt stop and then pulled a bottle out of his toolbox. He loved trying to find a tree that he knew and I didn’t. He wasn’t very successful, not because I excelled in tree identification, but because his seemingly rare specimens (to him) were all common to Indiana where I attended forestry school. He never caught on.”

“I was later transferred to the Sandston office, where I did all of the above and was responsible for maintenance of all vehicles and equipment that weighed over a ton. The tractors were a TD International, a Caterpillar, and a little John Deere. I recall trying to start that TD on a cold morning, which was a real chore. First, you started the little gasoline engine on the side of the tractor and when it was running good, you climbed up into the cab to start the diesel. Often, the diesel would simply cough a couple of times choking off the gasoline motor. So, you climbed down and repeated this ritual until the diesel finally caught on. None of the tractors were equipped with seatbelts, cages, or any other safety devices. We did however, have plastic helmets. On a forest fire, we made good use of the Mathis plow and the A-frame. I also wrote a weekly newspaper article on forestry subjects, which was published in the local newspapers.”

Over 50 years later, in June of 2005, Edward Furlow III reported for work at the Charlottesville Regional Office. This Edward was hired to serve Orange County as a forest technician; not too far from where his grandfather was originally stationed. Edward III graduated from Virginia Tech in 2002 with a degree in Forestry. Following graduation, Ed headed west to Phoenix, Arizona, to learn more about his favorite hobby, motorcycles. While attending trade school, he made time to explore some of the local attractions... birds of prey, tailless squirrels, coyotes, rattlesnakes and more. He described the timber in Arizona as pathetic, with the predominate vegetation being Saguaro cacti, which are commonly stolen on USFS lands due to the high resale value based on their attractiveness for residential landscaping. After spending a year in the hot, dry, desert sand, Edward received a motorcycle trade certificate and hit the road for Virginia. After two weeks of being back in the Old Dominion, the Feds called and offered him a job in Northern California, where he spent the majority of his time marking timber, such as sugar pine, ponderosa pine, white fir, red cedar and douglas fir. He recalls having to deal with the vicious tan oak and poison oak – both were impossible to avoid. He described his experience out west as a positive and memorable time, living in a small town of roughly 700 people, where everyone knew everyone.

He is glad to be back east and anxious to start a new chapter in his own story book of forestry tales.



# GROW YOUR OWN HOME

*Submitted by Jim Ebbert, forester, Region 5, Franklin County*

A usually enjoyable aspect of our job with the VDOF is meeting various landowners and working with them to help them accomplish their goals for their land. Although I can't take credit for this, I'll pass it on:

I recently met a fellow who is in the process of building a 2,200 square foot, two-story log "cabin" on land in Franklin County that has been in his family for many years. Most of the building material was harvested from the property, and skidded with a team of horses to his Wood Miser sawmill, where he sawed it to suit his needs. He did have to truck the larger logs to a bigger mill off-site. White pine was used for the exterior logs, floor joists and rafters. The sill and flooring are white oak. He used yellow poplar for collar ties. The kitchen cabinets were made by a local cabinet shop from hickory cut from the property.

This project is now nearing completion after four years. What a sense of satisfaction this landowner will have when he finally moves in, kicks back and recalls what a specific piece looked like as he processed it from standing tree to finished product.



# REGION 3 CONSTRUCTION AND PAINTING GANG

*Submitted by John Hisghman, technician, Region 3, Frederick and Clarke counties*

I would like to thank the members of the "R-3 Construction and Painting Gang." They were called to duty to prime and apply 2 coats of paint to the Stephen City tractor shed, and install a bird-proof ceiling in the Page County tractor pole shed. The members were John Hisghman, painting supervisor, Chad Stover, Harold Fisher, Steve Moyer, Stephen McElhaney, Gerald Crowell and David Powell. The supervisor was of a weak back and of weaker mind as he planned the painting for the hottest three days of the summer so far. (Next time I'll check the extended weather forecast.) But these sturdy fellows completed the task with barely any complaints. I guess shaving my head and telling the guys that the voices in my head told me to do it, made the guys too nervous to complain. I have already received several comments from VDOT about how good the shed looks.

Steve Moyer was the ceiling supervisor, (who planned his work detail on cooler days and even let us work in the shade) and was pleased with the gang's efforts. Chad Stover, Harold Fisher, Stephen McElhaney and John Hisghman installed the ceiling in a day and a half.

Thanks again to all who helped and also to B&G for lending us the man lift and nail gun.



*Stephen McElhaney (left) and Steve Moyer (right) are impressed with their handiwork.*

# Human Resources

## NEWS

### WELCOME!!!

**Brad Williams** is our new Assistant State Forester for Administration.

**Kyla Sabo** is the new FIA Forester for Region 1. She received her bachelor's in conservation and resource studies from the University of California, and her master's in forestry from Northern Arizona University. She mostly recently served as a research assistant at Northern Arizona University.

**Wanda Colvin** is the new Accountant in Fiscal. She formerly held a fiscal position with VDOF before leaving to accept a position in the banking industry. We are happy to have her come back.

**Kenny Doss** is our new equipment repair technician for Region 6. For the past 11 years, he has served as a mechanic for the Washington County School System. He has been in the mechanic field for a total of 20 years. He is a licensed vehicle inspector and holds both Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and American Welding Society certifications.

### FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

**Scott Ward**, technician for Tazewell County in Region 6, resigned to accept a position in Pennsylvania. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavor.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

On Wednesday, June 7, **Ken Mohler**, technician for Rockbridge County in Region 5, and his wife, Susan, adopted two children. Tiffany is 7 years old and Mikey is 12 years old. Tiffany and Mikey join big brother Travis who is 17 years old. Congratulations to Ken, Susan, Tiffany, Mikey, Travis, and the rest of the Mohler family!

**Matt Thurman**, technician for Henry County, married Jackie on July 8. We wish you a long and happy marriage.

### CONDOLENCES

**Willie Shumaker**, trades technician at Cumberland State Forest, lost his father in July.

**Angela Conary**, administrative specialist in Region 1, lost her sister, Anita Mooreland, age 55, of cancer.

**Joe Sullenberger**, retired chief forest warden, old District 7, Highland County, died June 30 at age 86. He is survived by Jean - his wife of 58 years - and three children. Joe worked with VDOF from 1963 until his retirement in 1981.

### SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations go the following employees for reaching service milestones:

#### 5 YEARS

Percy Ayers, housekeeping supervisor, CO

Keith Brown, communications, CO

Mindia Brown, information systems manager, CO

David Houttekier, technician, Appomattox Co., R-4

Kevin Keith, forester, Henry Co., R-5

Thomas Mallory, buildings and grounds, CO

Heather Manson, forester, Dinwiddie Co., R-1

Mike Santucci, forester, Madison Co., R-3

David Slack, regional forester, Tappahannock, R-2

Rich Steensma, forester, Lancaster Co., R-2

#### 10 YEARS

Barbara White, U&CF partnership coordinator, CO

#### 15 YEARS

Vance Coffey, technician, Cumberland SF

#### 20 YEARS:

Charlene Bardon, administrative services specialist, Farmville, R-4

Dickie Brooks, technician, Richmond Co., R-2

Dean Cumbia, director of resource management, CO

Thomas Edmonds, technician, Brunswick Co., R-1

Nelson Jarvis, technician, Gloucester Co., R-2

H. F. Jones, technician, Abingdon, R-6

Richard Reuse, forester, Chesterfield Co., R-2

Paul Revell, urban and community forestry, CO

Clara Rowe, administrative services specialist, Tappahannock, R-2

John Scrivani, director of resource information, CO

Gale Washburn, forester, Lunenburg Co., R-4

### NEW ASSISTANT STATE FORESTERS

With the retirement of Assistant State Forester Jim Bowen, who served the Virginia Department of Forestry for 38 years, one familiar face and one new face have been added to the Agency's executive management staff.

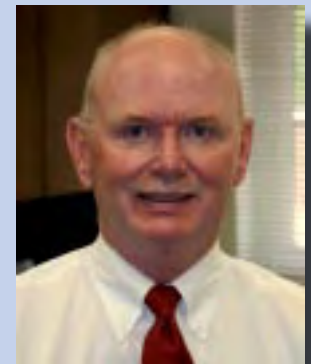
Ron Jenkins, a 29-year VDOF veteran, was promoted to Assistant State Forester in June. He is responsible for strategic planning, policy development and budgeting. Ron will also serve as the Department's legislative liaison to the General Assembly. He holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Bradley "Brad" Williams joined the Agency in July as the new Assistant State Forester for Administration. He came to VDOF from the American Forest and Paper Association



where he served as a senior manager and was responsible for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program. Brad holds a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation management from Western Carolina University and a master's degree in forest and resource conservation from the University of Florida.

State Forester Carl E. Garrison III said, "Ron and Brad are just who the Agency needs to take advantage of the many opportunities and to meet the challenges facing forestry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They will prove to be key players as we work to provide even better services to the citizens of the Commonwealth."





# FORESTRY CAMP.. A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON STUDENTS

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

July 12, 2006

Ms. Ellen Powell:

I can't thank you enough for the outstanding experience you and the other instructors, counselors and staff provided for all the campers during forestry camp at Holiday Lake in June. Hillary couldn't stop talking about all she learned and her experiences during that week, and she still hasn't stopped talking about what a great time she had. At home, she showed me her notebook and the calculations she learned how to perform. This is such a terrific opportunity for seriously-interested-in-ecology students to be with each other and learn in the field. She felt so accomplished and pleased to be able to demonstrate all that she learned during the week and in combination with her school studies. She was definitely looking for an academic experience rather than a recreational one, but forestry camp was a great combination of both in a natural setting.



Hillary Vild, camper of the year for 2006 Holiday Lake Forestry Camp

I can't get over how swift mail service was between the day you said you were dropping something in the mail for Hillary and the very next day when she received it (gift card for the savings bond). And, the bond itself arrived this week. Hillary says, "thank you!" Her dad and I thank you so much for the bond, lantern, book and all the rewards Hillary received during the week. All of them mean so much to her and remain on display in the family room as a reminder of her week at forestry camp.

Actually, a little group of campers already got back together for a little reunion this past weekend.



Hillary's only regret is that she didn't bring her clarinet and fife to camp to help her team win the talent show! Ever since camp ended, Hillary has been thinking ahead to next summer and hoping that she won't be too old for conservation camp (now that she has been exposed to how much fun it can be to be with other like-minded students).

I know Hillary will be in touch with Mr. Beard as soon as school starts up again in the fall. When we saw the photo and news release in the paper about Jamestown High School and the Envirothon competition, we wondered why Lafayette High School hadn't participated. Maybe Hillary can get something going along with Mr. Beard for this coming school year.

Thanks again for everything.

Liz Cornell (Hillary's mom)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jeffrey W. Stout (NK) ~ Oct. 2  
David W. Tolliver (R6) ~ Oct. 4  
Karen E. Snape (R2) ~ Oct. 5  
Matthew F. Jedra (R1) ~ Oct. 5  
Erik P. Filep (R3) ~ Oct. 6  
Richard T. Thomas (CO) ~ Oct. 6  
C. Brian Ledford (R6) ~ Oct. 8  
William L. Apperson (R2) ~ Oct. 8  
William J. Shoup (R2) ~ Oct. 11  
R. Randy Fleming (R6) ~ Oct. 12  
Nelson J. Shaw (R3) ~ Oct. 12  
Lewis E. Rhodes (CO) ~ Oct. 15  
Christopher Owens (R6) ~ Oct. 16  
Chad D. Stover (R3) ~ Oct. 16  
Timothy C. Tigner (Ret.) ~ Oct. 16  
William L. Shockley (Ret.) ~ Oct. 17  
J. Bruce Edwards (R1) ~ Oct. 18  
Thomas E. Harlan (R2) ~ Oct. 19  
Robert K. Lewis (R1) ~ Oct. 19  
Lawrence Mikkelsen (CO) ~ Oct. 19  
Janie E. Harris (Ret.) ~ Oct. 22

Michael Stoneburner (CO) ~ Oct. 24  
Paul D. Stoneburner (R3) ~ Oct. 25  
R. Dean Lowdermilk (GG) ~ Oct. 25  
G. Thomas Nunnally (R1) ~ Oct. 25  
Marcellus E. Rose (AG) ~ Oct. 28  
Frederick X. Turck (CO) ~ Oct. 30  
Jana T. Maynard (R6) ~ Oct. 31  
Vance L. Coffey (SF) ~ Nov. 1  
James D. Starr (Ret.) ~ Nov. 4  
Michael C. Eckley (R3) ~ Nov. 6  
Tracy D. McDonald (CO) ~ Nov. 7  
J. Stephen Pence (R3) ~ Nov. 8  
Onesphore Bitoki (NK) ~ Nov. 10  
Gregory A. Farrish (CO) ~ Nov. 10  
Daniel C. Roberts (R2) ~ Nov. 10  
Jeffrey J. Darr (R2) ~ Nov. 12  
T. Nelson Hillyer (R2) ~ Nov. 12  
James W. Garner (Ret.) ~ Nov. 13  
Dean P. Smith (R3) ~ Nov. 15  
L. Gerald Shifflett (CO) ~ Nov. 18  
Matthew M. Poirot (CO) ~ Nov. 19

Faye E. DiFazio (CO) ~ Nov. 23  
Stuart L. Sours (R5) ~ Nov. 23  
M. Ann Irving (Ret.) ~ Nov. 25  
Thomas W. Mallory (CO) ~ Nov. 25  
Bonnie Q. Ragland (CO) ~ Nov. 29  
James E. Cook (Ret.) ~ Nov. 30  
Edward H. Zimmer (R1) ~ Nov. 30  
Thomas M. Pleasants (Ret.) ~ Dec. 1  
Joyce M. Landram (AG) ~ Dec. 3  
Philip D. Crigger (CO) ~ Dec. 5  
Leslie C. Mace (R5) ~ Dec. 5  
Lawrence Tankersley (R6) ~ Dec. 5  
William B. Carlton (R2) ~ Dec. 6  
Lewis F. Southard (Ret.) ~ Dec. 7  
Patricia F. Nylander (R3) ~ Dec. 7  
Jason T. Upton (R1) ~ Dec. 9  
Tanya J. White (R1) ~ Dec. 9  
Robert W. Stempel (R1) ~ Dec. 9  
John C. Hisghman (R3) ~ Dec. 11  
Wayne F. Bowman (CO) ~ Dec. 12  
William E. Perry (R3) ~ Dec. 12

Justin E. Funk (R4) ~ Dec. 13  
Jeffrey L. Hensley (CO) ~ Dec. 14  
James F. Wagner (Ret.) ~ Dec. 14  
Donald L. Foster (Ret.) ~ Dec. 14  
James H. Blackwell (R1) ~ Dec. 17  
Ronald S. Jenkins (CO) ~ Dec. 18  
Jonathan R. Pine (R3) ~ Dec. 18  
David K. Nabers (CO) ~ Dec. 18  
Henry E. Womack (R4) ~ Dec. 21  
Carl E. Garrison (CO) ~ Dec. 22  
Stephen F. Grayson (CO) ~ Dec. 22  
Everette "Buck" Kline (R3) ~ Dec. 22  
R. Brad Whittington (R4) ~ Dec. 23  
James W. Bright (Ret.) ~ Dec. 24  
Terry H. Brennen (SF) ~ Dec. 25  
W. Chad Austin (R6) ~ Dec. 26  
Ellen R. Powell (CO) ~ Dec. 27  
Thomas A. Callahan (CO) ~ Dec. 28  
Thomas W. Reeves (R4) ~ Dec. 30  
Charles L. Hutsell (R5) ~ Dec. 30  
Walter Washington (Ret.) ~ Dec. 30  
John M. Carroll (CO) ~ Dec. 30  
J. Riley Bruce (R6) ~ Dec. 31  
Patrick M. Murphy (R4) ~ Dec. 31



# Mail Bag

July 6, 2006

Nelson Shaw, forester, Region 3, Albemarle County,

Re: Broomley Farm

Dear Mr. Shaw:

*I want to thank you sincerely for the time you spent with our firm this morning discussing our designs for the beech / holly forest at Broomley Farm. We are excited about the potential to look far into the future and plan a place that will truly be magical. We thank you for stepping outside of your normal set of forestry questions to apply your expertise to this endeavor. We will keep you informed of our progress and call on you if we have any further questions.*

Sincerely,

Breck Gastinger

project manager, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

## Contacts AND INFORMATION

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.

Submit articles to:  
Janet Muncy, editor  
[janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov)

The deadlines are as follows:

**Winter Issue -- November 1, 2006**

Spring Issue -- February 1, 2007

Summer Issue -- May 1, 2007

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2007

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please notify of address corrections