



NEWS FORESTRY

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

MISSION:

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

NEFF AND ROXY GET BROWNING AWARD

Submitted by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

Lee County Forestry Technician William Neff and his arson investigation partner Roxy have been honored for their distinguished service in wildland fire prevention. The two took home the 2006 Robert E. Browning Award, which is given by the US Forest Service Southern Region and is the only national award of its kind.

The award is named for the late Robert E. Browning, who gave his life on Storm King Mountain in Colorado. Browning was one of 14 firefighters, and the only Southerner, killed during a blowup of the fire on July 6, 1994. This fire is considered to be one of the "greatest tragedies in the annals of firefighting."

The Browning Award is given annually to the person or group who has done an outstanding job with prevention activities during the course of the year.

"William and Roxy are most deserving of this honor," said Fred Turck, assistant director of resource protection. "They did several 'meet and greet' events; participated in a very successful media day, and were very active on the National Prevention Team that served in Southwest Virginia in the fall of 2005."

Neff said, "I was shocked when they made the announcement at the Region 6 regional meeting. I had no idea that I was even being considered for the award. I'm most grateful for this recognition, and I'd like to thank everyone for their support because this award belongs to us all."

R-6 Regional Forester Ed Stoots said, "William and Roxy have had a lot of success in their work, and they are always ready to assist no matter what the task. Their efforts last year in wildland fire prevention really made a difference."

Neff and Roxy received a statue and a certificate in recognition of their achievement.



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Message

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



"It's not easy being green."

This quote from Muppet character Kermit the Frog is one that rings true for us and our Agency. As natural resources professionals, we know the intrinsic value of our forests and the vital role they play in our ecosystem.

At times, it may seem as if we are at odds with ourselves. Part of our mission is to protect our environment. The other part of our mission is to ensure we have a healthy and working forest land base. We take both charges seriously, and much of our resources are dedicated to effectively managing these challenges.

So, even though on the surface it may appear that these are mutually exclusive, the reality is that these can and, in fact, must co-exist if Virginia is to continue to have an economically viable forest industry. Forestry and the forest industry are engaged in a number of "battles" including: global competition, forest land conversion, fragmentation, inheritance tax issues, ecosystems services, carbon sequestration, viewsheds, recreational opportunities, and many others. Our job is to ensure that we protect and develop healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians.

As I've traveled the Commonwealth and met with people who hold differing views and opinions on these matters, I've heard from a few people that our Agency is perceived as becoming "too green." Are we green? Of course we are. Are we becoming too green? Absolutely not!

VDOF has always been an advocate for active forest management and a great supporter of forest industry. That hasn't and won't change. We will continue to do all that is necessary to ensure both Virginia's forests and the forest industries are here to stay – even if that means some people question our motivation. We know it's not easy being green. But we also know that if we weren't at least somewhat green, Virginia's forests and the forest industry might not be around for our children or our grandchildren.

Carl Garrison
State Forester

FOREST MANAGEMENT DIVISION IS RE-ORGANIZED

Submitted by Carl Garrison, state forester

For years, our water resources people have been dispersed under three Divisions, and there's a need to bring more relevance to a forest land conservation program to better meet the needs of the Commonwealth. I have been considering these issues for some time now, but I wanted to make any moves as least disruptive as possible to agency operations. With the recent resignations of Mike Foreman, Sam Austin and James Fulcher, the opportunity presented itself to implement this revision smoothly.

Effective Dec. 1, 2006, the Forest Management Division – under the leadership of Dean Cumbia – will be subdivided into four groups: a more traditional Reforestation/Management Group; a Community Forestry Group; a Water Quality Group, and a Forest Land Conservation Group.

Matt Poirot will move from Resource Protection to lead the Water Quality Group. We will advertise the hydrologist position as a Forest Engineer position under Matt. Foreman's former position will be advertised as a Forest Land Conservation manager. Charlie Becker will move from Resource Information to the Forest Management Division. This will bring the utilization and marketing function under the more traditional Forest Management.

These changes should bring more importance and relevance to Forest Land Conservation and Water Quality and help provide more support and guidance to the field.

Awards AND ACHIEVEMENTS

DEPARTMENT RECEIVES SPONSORS AWARD FROM VIRGINIA BEACH

Submitted by Jack Kauffman, forester, Region 1, Chesapeake

The Virginia Department of Forestry was recognized by the City of Virginia Beach for contributions made in support of the Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission programs.

Ed Zimmer and Jack Kauffman accepted the award from Mayor Myra Oberndorf at the City of Virginia Beach's Environmental Service Recognition Breakfast. The Bronze Sponsor award was given for donating seedlings to Virginia Beach's Earth Day celebration.

Earth Day was celebrated on May 7th at Mt. Trashmore and more than 12,000 people attended the festivities. A variety of tree seedlings were available for visitors to take home and plant. "People really appreciated the opportunity to continue their Earth Day celebration with the planting of a tree at their home," said Ruby Arredondo, Virginia Beach's Clean Community coordinator.

Kauffman said, "We look forward to providing this opportunity to those who celebrate Earth Day at Mt. Trashmore next year."



Jack Kauffman, forester, Chesapeake, (left) and Ed Zimmer, regional forester, Region 1, (center) accept an award for support of Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission programs from Mayor Myra Oberndorf.

GOLD SUMMIT AWARD

Submitted by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

In the fall of 2005, Southwest Virginia was experiencing drought-like conditions; ground fuel levels were high, and the area had a history of a high number of arson and debris-burning wildland fires. By the start of the fall fire season (October 15), it was predicted that the region could face one of the worst fall fire seasons in many years.

A team of wildland fire prevention and education professionals from across the nation was assembled with one goal in mind – to reduce the number of human-caused fires in Southwest Virginia. The efforts of this team were recognized two weeks ago by the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America with a "Gold Summit Award" in the category of "Issues and Crisis Management."

The core team of Rockbridge County Forestry Technician Ken Mohler; Assistant Director of Resource Protection Fred Turck; former RC&D Forester Bill Worrell; USFS Public Affairs Specialist Donna Wilson; Maggie McCaffrey, US Bureau of Land Management fire mitigation/education specialist in Colorado; and Vince Urbina, assistant staff forester, Colorado Division of Forestry, set up their operation Oct. 26th, 2005 at Natural Tunnel State Park. During their two-week assignment, they developed and implemented a number of wildland fire prevention and education programs that reached an estimated 500,000 people.

This team was assisted by Region 6 employees Ed Stoots, Chris Sullivan, Bill Miller, Steve Counts, Lawrence Tankersley, Randy Fleming, Russell Proctor, William Neff, Kenny Thomas, David Tolliver and Matt Williams as well as staff from Natural Tunnel State Park; George Washington/Jefferson National Forest; Mount Rogers NRA, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Congratulations to all for a job well done.



Training

FOCUS

FULL-THROTTLE FUNDRAISER FOR MS: ALL MUD AND SMILES!

Submitted by Erik Filep, technician, Region 3, Louisa County

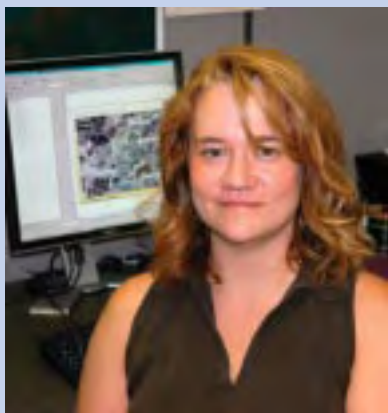


On the morning of September 16th, a soft rain began to fall as a large crowd was gathering to give from their hearts and wallets for a good cause. The rain didn't dampen their spirits, and it did make good MUD!

The Louisa County Multiple Sclerosis Fundraising Committee decided to put a new spin on an old tradition. Each year the National MS Foundation hosts a charity walk or run. But why walk when you can ride? Full Throttle was a fundraising event that involved ATVs, dirt bikes and about 800 acres of trails on private property. Three hundred and thirty-one riders registered for the event, which helped to raise more than \$13,000 for multiple sclerosis. Riders came from all over Virginia, as well as from North Carolina, West Virginia and Maryland. Local vendors lent their support and provided food, music and raffle prizes, including a Suzuki Ozark 250 ATV and trailer.

Erik Filep, Louisa County technician, had been approached by the organizing committee for permission to use the VDOF bulldozer to prepare several miles of trail. With wholehearted support from Buck Kline and Greg Meade, the project began. With the help of Ed Furlow, Jonathan Pine, David Stone and Greg Meade, the trails were completed within a week. The work supported the charity effort, as well as provided valuable training time on the new 450H dozer.

Along with raising money for a good cause, the event also placed a major emphasis on safe riding. All riders had to wear helmets and other appropriate personal protective equipment. A full complement of rescue squad volunteers from several counties were on hand, but not so much as a bandage was needed. After a long day of riding, all you could see were mud and smiles. With nothing but positive feedback, the event was declared a huge success and plans are already in the works to make this an annual event.



VDOF EARNS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY

Submitted by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

The Virginia Department of Forestry earned the 2006 Special Achievement in Geographic Information System Award for its "exceptional work using GIS technology" through the creation of IFRIS – the Integrated Forest Resource Information System. IFRIS enables VDOF staff to better serve Virginia landowners by performing Web-based editing of geodatabases that store geometry of forest management activity areas and existing forest stand type/condition attribution using aerial photo imagery of each forested property.

"This award celebrates the achievement and vision of innovators in the GIS field," said Jack Dangermond, president of ESRI Inc., the leading developer of GIS software

in the world. "VDOF was selected out of more than 150,000 organizations worldwide for this honor.

State Forester Carl E. Garrison III said, "This award is well-deserved recognition for the tremendous effort put forth by Mindia Brown, John Scrivani and the GIS team. These talented and dedicated folks have created an Agency enterprise system that enhances our ability to better support decision making and to deliver top-notch customer service across the board."

REGIONAL SAFETY EVENT

Submitted by Buck Kline, regional forester, Region 3

On August 29th, Region 3 held a Fire Readiness/Fire Safety event at the Augusta Forestry Center. The Regional Safety Committee, spearheaded by Jon Pine, Josh McLaughlin and Greg Meade, organized and provided the leadership for this event.

The day began with a general overview of the planned activities by Jon Pine and Greg Meade. The group of about 40 folks was divided into four groups. Each group rotated through one of four stations: chainsaw safety; tractor operation; tractor and pump maintenance; and general fire safety and fire shelter deployment.

Dave Stone stepped forward on a few hours' notice and filled in to teach fire safety and fire shelter deployment. The two main techniques for deploying the fire shelter were demonstrated and everyone was given a chance to practice. At the time of sending this article to the press, Steve Pence was still at the Augusta Forestry Center trying to get his shelter out of the container.

The second station exposed personnel to the different models of tractors we now have scattered around the region. Techniques and tips on loading, unloading and general operation were discussed. A special thanks to Rodger Moyers, Herb Reynolds and Eddie Embrey for teaching this section. It was all we could do to keep Larry Estes from forcing the dozers into service to move his mountain of mulch.

L.E. Rhodes took the lead in covering general dozer maintenance and pump operations on the pickups. L.E.'s knowledge and experience was a great asset at this station. We appreciate his taking time out of the Central Office Shop to help out.

The chainsaw safety station was manned by Mike Stoneburner. Mike gave instructions on bore cutting, chainsaw sharpening and chainsaw maintenance. We greatly appreciate Mike taking time from his busy buildings and grounds workload to accommodate the training event. A lot was learned at this station by both veteran and newer employees.

This was a very successful event with new employees being mentored by seasoned professionals and having the opportunity to be exposed to the most important factor in fighting wildland fire... SAFETY.

I am convinced that Region 3 is directly responsible for busting the recent drought and sending Tropical Storm Ernesto into Virginia. You want it to rain, you wash your car. You want to end a drought and take a bite out of fall fire season; you hold a region wide fire safety/fire preparedness event. Not only did we bring the rain, but at the time of penning this article, the "Eye of Ernesto" is predicted to come directly over the center of the Augusta Forestry Center. For all those who want to show their appreciation for this needed rain, forward your accolades to the Region 3 Safety Committee.



WHAT IS

THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) FORESTRY PROGRAM

*Submitted by Anna Cahoon and David Richert,
VDOF RC&D Foresters*



*Anna Kroyer Cahoon, RC&D forester,
Dinwiddie*



*David Richert, RC&D forester,
Wytheville*

This summer, the Virginia Department of Forestry hired two foresters to assist Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils with forestry-related projects (Anna Cahoon and David Richert). You may have noticed these foresters driving back and forth through your work areas as they have been busy creating or settling into the forestry RC&D council programs.

For at least the past 20 years, RC&D foresters have been assisting with: tree-care workshops, logging safety and business management workshops, tree identification trails, environmental education projects, timber bridge workshops, hosting landowner short-courses and field tours, and a quarterly newsletter. This personnel change marks an important milestone, however; it is the first time that USDA-NRCS and VDOF have been able to secure funding for two, full-time foresters.

Located in Dinwiddie, Anna Kroyer Cahoon is one of the RC&D foresters. She was previously with the VDOF as the Prince George and Surry area forester. Anna is serving the Eastern Shore, Old Dominion, South Centre Corridors, South Hampton Roads and Tidewater RC&D Councils.

Located in Wytheville, David Richert is the other RC&D Forester. David's predecessor, Bill Worrell, accepted an extension forester position with the Virginia Cooperative Extension last year. David was previously with the VDOF as the Bland, Buchanan and Tazewell area forester. David is serving the Black Diamond, New River-Highlands, and Shenandoah RC&D Councils.

A very common question asked of Anna and David is: What is RC&D?

Resource Conservation and Development is a program authorized by the Farm Bill. RC&D Councils typically serve several counties. The Councils serve to unite volunteers and local elected and civic leaders to carry out projects for resource conservation and community development. Forestry projects are adopted into local RC&D council's annual plan of work, and are implemented by council members and volunteers, with technical assistance from RC&D foresters. Some RC&D councils have forestry committees or advisory groups that these foresters serve on, as well as local VDOF regional staff.

One of the largest, active RC&D forestry projects in Virginia is a Firewise project that will reduce wildfire risks around some 400 homes within three miles of George Washington / Jefferson National Forest land. To date, this US Forest Service / Virginia Department of Forestry funded project has already improved the defensible space around 113 woodland homes. While there are more than 400 homes at risk from wildfire, this program will help raise awareness of the risk of wildfire in woodland communities—and will help further the efforts of the VDOF Wildfire Prevention Team at state and local levels.

Another RC&D forestry project is the small scale production of natural hardwood lump charcoal, which has the potential to generate income from forest land by adding value to the seemingly endless supply of low-grade wood. This year, there have been several demonstrations on how to produce natural charcoal, using wood from Firewise fuel reduction projects (tipping fees for disposal would range in the \$50-\$75/ton range), invasive species (tree-of-heaven), and waste-wood from non-commercial TSI projects. As part of this project, the New River-Highlands RC&D owns two portable charcoal kilns, both of which are on loan to entrepreneurially minded landowners in the New River area.

RC&D?

The Tidewater RC&D also owns one portable charcoal kiln that is on loan to Cimarron Forestry Services in Callao near Tappahannock.

In southeastern and south central Virginia, the RC&D Councils are using their new forester to help create forestry committees that report to the RC&D Council. These committees are composed of professional and industry foresters, landowners and anyone else interested in protecting the interests of the regional forestry resource. Two committees have already begun meeting in the VDOF Region 1 area. These two committees represent South Centre Corridors RC&D and South Hampton Roads RC&D. Both committees have already produced productive project ideas that will meet the needs of forestry issues in the region. This winter, the foresters will work to rebuild the Old Dominion RC&D forestry committee in Region 4.

The RC&D program is always looking for potential forestry projects to enhance and protect Virginia's forest resources – take advantage of this opportunity and share your idea today! Contact one of these two foresters and play a role in increasing public and local government participation and activism in the RC&D forestry program.



Veneer scraps in the West Point Veneer Mill



Lump hardwood charcoal production demonstration

NANSEMOND RIVER HIGH SCHOOL INSTALLS A RAIN GARDEN

Submitted by: Jack Kauffman, forester, Region 1, Chesapeake

Every school year, Kristen Axselle gives her AP Science class a written project as their final assignment. This year, the students wanted to do something more for their school and the environment than a written report would accomplish.

The students elected to design and install a rain garden on the school grounds. The rain garden will help to improve the water quality of the river for which the school is named. The garden will trap runoff from the roof of the school and filter pollutants out before they enter the existing storm drains and, eventually, the Nansemond River.

The students elected to create a small depression around a storm drain located near the bus entrance for the school. The next step was for the students and Department of Forestry staff: Cody Daniels, Toni Sanderson, Heidi Metz and Jack Kauffman, to plant the depression with native riparian trees, shrubs and flowers. The plant material and excavation of the rain garden area was funded through the Water Quality Improvement Fund.

The rain garden installed by the students not only will improve the water quality of the nearby river but also provide future students with an example of how to be good stewards of the land.



Students install a rain garden on school grounds.

Resource Information

FOCUS

CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES THROUGH UTILIZATION - THE AILANTHUS PROJECT

Submitted by Charlie Becker, utilization and marketing forester, Resource Information Division



As invasive species become more prevalent in our woodlands, we need to look at new ways to help control their impact on our native forests. One approach that the Department of Forestry is investigating, along with help from Virginia Tech and others, is to encourage the harvesting and control of woody invasives by finding markets and uses for them. Although Virginia is "blessed" with many woody invasives, *Ailanthus* or tree of heaven is No. 1 in volume.

Ailanthus altissima or tree of heaven, a native of China, was first introduced to the United States from England via Philadelphia, PA, in 1784 as an ornamental tree. Since then, it has been introduced and spread throughout the east and into western states. The highest volumes are found in the mid-Atlantic states, with Virginia being No. 2 behind Tennessee. Based on current FIA inventory data, more than 35 counties in Virginia have measurable quantities of *Ailanthus* and statewide volumes exceed 48 million cubic feet, concentrated primarily along the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This volume amount exceeds that of many native tree species, and *Ailanthus* is 46th in abundance out of a list of 104 tree species for Virginia.

Since most of the forest land in Virginia is privately owned, controlling *Ailanthus* is difficult due to the cost of educating the public and standard control measures. Using market development as a means of mitigating impacts of invasive tree species is a novel approach that holds promise. Several potential markets were identified as possible outlets for *Ailanthus*. These included green and dry lumber, pulpwood, firewood and charcoal. Actual uses in Virginia include minor use for pulpwood, pallet boards, horse trailer decking and firewood.

A research project was set up to look at herbicide control and impact on harvested timber. *Ailanthus* trees were harvested and sorted by size and treatment. The only visual difference in the various treatments was that material from trees that were sprayed and cut after one week showed more stain and bark sloughing. Saw logs were converted into lumber and sent to Virginia Tech to be dry-kilned. One load was stacked for air drying and exhibited a lot of staining and warping. Much of the stain did plane off when boards were finished. The rest of the wood was dried green. Movement and warp was a problem with the kiln-dried lumber, especially boards on the top with little or no weight. Altering drying schedule, grading out low-quality boards and minimizing boards with pith may be necessary. Dried lumber has been offered to a number of woodworkers for evaluation, and sample boards were produced and made available for presentations to woodworkers and lumber retailers to determine if any demand could be generated. The initial response of those who have seen the lumber has been positive. The wood resembles ash with a yellowish color. It sands fairly easily and takes a nice polish, but the grain can still be felt after finishing. It takes a stain well, at least on test pieces. Users thought it would make a good cabinet wood.

Evaluation of spray treatments on wood quality is in process. Research on drying, physical characteristics of the wood, and historic and local uses of *Ailanthus* is ongoing. Smaller trees are being evaluated for use as firewood, charcoal and other uses. The volumes in the research trees were not enough to sell as pulpwood, however discussions with two pulp and paper companies confirmed that they will accept the wood. Increasing demand for fuel chips is also being investigated. There is some evidence of *Ailanthus* being used as firewood and being promoted in other states. Virginia Tech will be looking at heat

Continued on page 9

FORESTRY CAMP GEOCACHE HISTORICAL TOUR

Submitted by Hylton Haynes, forest engineer, Region 1

In preparation for this year's Forestry Camp at Holiday Lake, Ellen Powell presented me with an opportunity to instruct a GPS exploratory activity. Based on the Geocache team-building activity I participated in at the fall 2005 regional meeting, I decided that a geocaching activity would be a very beneficial educational exercise for the teens.

Geocachers essentially use hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) units to locate hidden caches at sites identified by coordinates. There are three rules to the game: you take something from the cache; you leave something in its place, and you record the visit in the enclosed log book.

After running through some geocache options with several VDOF folks, I learned that Terry Brennen, technician at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, had developed a Geocache Historical Tour on the State Forest. The tour goes into great detail explaining the historical, archaeological and biological significance of each cache and is truly a wonderful learning experience.

Using this tour as a template, both Terry and Hanover Technician Kathleen Ogilvy helped me add some Smokey trinkets to the caches prior to the activity. On the day of the activity, the campers embraced the technologically sophisticated treasure hunt with extreme zeal. So much in fact that Terry, Kathleen and I had a hard time reigning in the exuberance. Essentially it was "game on!" The physical body was in overdrive and the "mind," with the technological advantage, was left in the "starting blocks." Fortunately, there were one or two campers who used a more tempered approach and found the first cache with relative ease. As the campers realized the potential of their GPS units, they became more measured in their pursuit of the prize. Hopefully they learned a little about dendrology and historical land management activities along the way.

If anyone is interested in the Geocache Historical Tour "Farming, Forestry and Bygone days," you can collect the information on the door of the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest office, located on Francisco Road (N37°26.29'; W78°39.85'). Remember to set your GPS units to degrees and decimal minutes for accuracy and remember the cardinal rule of "pack it in and pack it out." For more information on, this phenomenon visit: www.geocaching.com.



Terry Brennen and Kathleen Ogilvy assist campers with a geocache on Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest.

THE AILANTHUS PROJECT, CONTINUED...

value and some other characteristics of *Ailanthus* for firewood.

A portable charcoal kiln was used to convert *Ailanthus* sawmill slabs and branch wood into natural lump charcoal. Charcoal production was acceptable and more work needs to be done to compare it to other species and acceptance in local markets. Work is continuing on other potential products. A veneer

company has shown interest in slicing some *Ailanthus*, and a commercial kiln is interested in drying some if the quantity can be found. A feasibility study that identifies ways to control *Ailanthus* and process it to a usable final product is being planned.

In the future, we hope to identify a site scheduled for harvesting that has *Ailanthus* present, so that we can see what incentives are needed to include

Ailanthus in the harvest. We also plan to finish control work and begin restoration of native forests on past sites. Restoration will also involve dealing with a multitude of other invasive plants on the site, including oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, autumn olive and privet.

We plan to have a pamphlet available next year on control and use options, along with an invasive species interpretive trail.



Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

Michael Boston is our new director of general services. He holds a bachelor's in education and a master's in organizational management. Michael came to us from the Federal government where he worked with the Department of Defense as a management and program analyst. Prior to joining the Federal government, Michael spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy.

Welcome back to **Steve Morris!** Steve is returning to his position as technician for Cumberland County in Region 4. He had served in Cumberland County for 17 years before leaving us.

Brian Rogers is our new technician for Pittsylvania County in Region 5. Brian served as the Region 6 intern this summer. He received his associate's in forest management. He has previously been a fire crew member in North Carolina and a forestry technician for a private estate in South Carolina.

Greg Estolle is our new forester for Tazewell County in Region 6. He holds a bachelor's in forestry and a master's in forest resources. Most recently, he has been working as a forester for Vermejo Park in New Mexico.

Edwina Blalock returned to VDOF as the new programmer/analyst. She'll be working with Joe Street on IFRIS in addition to other VDOF database programs.

Kristina Woodie is the new receptionist at the Central Office. She was previously an office assistant at the Higgins Group in Charlottesville.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Paul Stoneburner, technician for Albemarle County in Region 3, is the new regional technician for Region 3.

Wyatt Cox is our new, regular, part-time equipment repair technician for Region 1 and the Garland Gray Forestry Center. He has been working as a temporary part-time equipment repair technician for the past nine months and has also served as an equipment operator for Region 1.

L.E. Rhodes, equipment repair technician for Region 3, is the new technician for Albemarle County in Region 3.

Michael Salyer, technician for Campbell County in Region 4, is the new technician for Wise County in Region 6.

Bret Robinson has been promoted to forester for Loudoun County in Region 3. He formerly served as the technician for Northern Virginia.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

Sam Austin, hydrologist in the Resource Information Division, resigned to take a position with US Geological Survey in Richmond. Best wishes to Sam in his new adventure!

James Fulcher, Chesapeake Bay coordinator in Resource Management, resigned from VDOF in November. Good luck!

Tammy Butler, administrative services specialist in Region 3, has left VDOF. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors!

Mike Eckley, forester for Orange County in Region 3, resigned to accept a position with the Ohio Department of Forestry working with its 75,000-acre state forest. We wish him the best of luck in his new position!

Mike Foreman, riparian and land conservation manager with the Resource Management Division, resigned from VDOF to accept the position of deputy director for the Soil and Water Division at the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Congratulations, Mike, on your new position!

Mark Webb, FIA forester for Region 2, has left VDOF. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors!

Lisa Krajewski, forester for Henrico County in Region 2, left VDOF to return to her previous employer. Best of luck, Lisa!

Kelley Wagner, forester for Loudoun and Prince William counties in Region 3, has resigned. Best wishes to Kelley!

Jennifer Carver, receptionist at Central Office, left VDOF. Best wishes to Jennifer!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thomas Edmonds, technician for Brunswick County in Region 1, has a new grandson. His son, Thomas Scott Edmonds, and his daughter-in-law welcomed Ryan Scott into their family September 22. Ryan weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces.

Joshua McLaughlin, forester at Augusta Forestry Center, became an uncle on September 19. His brother, Jeremy, and sister-in-law, Michelle, welcomed a baby girl into their family. Mia Michelle weighed 6 pounds, 9.7 ounces.

Brad Whittington, technician for Mecklenburg County in Region 4, and wife, Lori, welcomed a new baby girl into their family on August 21. Amelia Jane was 7 pounds, 1 ounce. Her proud Grandpa is Blair Dalton, technician for Mecklenburg County in Region 4.

CONDOLENCES

Thomas Edmonds, technician for Brunswick County in Region 1, lost his brother, James Howard Edmonds, on September 11.

Bob Boeren, forester for Botetourt County in Region 5, lost his father-in-law, Walter Smith, on September 5 in South Carolina.

Levy Andrew Gibson, the grandson of Sherwood and Cora Gibson, was tragically killed in a car accident on August 23. Sherwood Gibson worked in the General Services Division and retired in 2002.

Nelson Shaw, forester for Albemarle County in Region 3, lost his mother on August 14. Rita Shaw had been in declining health for several years.

Michael Salyer, technician for Wise County in Region 6, has lost two uncles and an aunt this summer. Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael and his family

WETLAND DELINEATION COURSE

Submitted by *Hylton Haynes, forest engineer, and Scott Bachman, assistant regional forester, Region 1*

In an effort to improve our understanding of water quality, the Department of Forestry afforded 24 field personnel a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the 'art and science' of wetland delineation in October at the Wakefield 4-H Center. The need for this type of knowledge within the Agency is very apparent, especially when 70 percent of the coastal plain is considered a wetland.

The week-long course was presented by three local wetland experts: Dr. Jim Perry (Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences at the College of William and Mary), Dr. Lee Daniels (Department of Crop, Soils and Environmental Science at Virginia Tech) and Dr. Doug DeBerry (Williamsburg Environmental Group Inc.). The week was comprised of both classroom lectures and field experiences. The backdrop to the course was the US Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual. By the end of the week, most of the participating cadre gained new insights into this very interesting field of study that utilizes a broad knowledge of natural resources, including hydrology, plant ecology, soil science and environmental policy.

According to Dr. Jim Perry, the most endangered wetlands are isolated, seasonal forested wetlands that are found throughout Virginia. The continental United States has only 221 million of the original 392 million acres of wetlands remaining. Virginia has lost one million acres (50%) of her original two million acres. One acre of wetlands can store 1-1.5 million gallons of water. New Orleans would have survived Hurricane Katrina last year if only 50 square miles of the already 400 square miles of destroyed wetlands in that region had been preserved. The five-foot flood stage that destroyed the levies would never have materialized.

We also learned that the wetlands found in other areas are often more at risk than those in the coastal plain that are threatened by development.

These smaller wetlands are often in sensitive areas and contain sensitive plants and animals. Some of the most fragile wetlands are in the Shenandoah Valley where karst wetlands have developed.

More importantly, foresters – who are taught to look up – had an opportunity to look down and observe and appreciate all the smaller plant communities that exist within our forests. This course has opened our minds to the need for us to be better land stewards. We now have the tools to recognize wetlands and improve our recommendations and general awareness. As a direct result of this course, a new approach to the way we as an agency deal with this complex wetland issue is warranted and deserves further exploration.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Michael A. Boston ~ Jan. 5 (CO)
Keith P. Brown ~ Jan. 5 (CO)
Edwina B. Blalock ~ Jan. 7 (CO)
Phil T. Grimm ~ Jan. 7 (RET)
Jesse L. Rivers ~ Jan. 7 (RET)
J. David Cooper ~ Jan. 10 (R5)
Richard K. Steensma ~ Jan. 12 (R2)
James Timberlake ~ Jan. 12 (RET)
Steven G. Wells ~ Jan. 13 (R6)
Jon A. Willoughby ~ Jan. 13 (R5)
Janet R. Muncy ~ Jan. 14 (CO)
Thomas W. Zaebst ~ Jan. 14 (SF)
Neal T. Oberholtzer ~ Jan. 15 (R4)
T. Kem Pace ~ Jan. 15 (R5)
Sandra K. Stephens ~ Jan. 15 (R3)
Mary L. Mead ~ Jan. 16 (RET)
John A. Brooks ~ Jan. 17 (R2)
Todd A. Kready ~ Jan. 17 (R2)
Matthew H. Coleman ~ Jan. 19 (R2)
Alan T. Sutherlin ~ Jan. 19 (R2)
Alan D. Craft ~ Jan. 20 (R5)

Hope H. Tyzinski ~ Jan. 20 (R5)
Kirby A. Woolfolk ~ Jan. 20 (R4)
Rita D. Moore ~ Jan. 21 (CO)
Donald R. Jamerson ~ Jan. 22 (NK)
Trent G. Badgley ~ Jan. 24 (CO)
Angela R. Brown ~ Jan. 25 (CO)
David H. Terwilliger ~ Jan. 25 (R2)
Terrance J. Lasher ~ Jan. 26 (R3)
E. Edward Stoots ~ Jan. 28 (R6)
Rodger L. Moyers ~ Jan. 29 (R3)
D. David Snyder ~ Jan. 30 (R4)
Carolyn S. Morris ~ Jan. 31 (R4)
David J. Houttekier ~ Feb. 1 (R4)
Ricky A. Butler ~ Feb. 2 (R4)
Joseph P. Hancock ~ Feb. 2 (RET)
John W. Campbell ~ Feb. 4 (CO)
Pamela D. Logan ~ Feb. 5 (CO)
M. Bruce Thacker ~ Feb. 7 (SF)
A. John Wright ~ Feb. 7 (R5)
Janet W. Barr ~ Feb. 9 (RET)
Roger C. Roberts ~ Feb. 9 (RET)

B. Blair Dalton ~ Feb. 12 (R4)
Robert L. Miles ~ Feb. 12 (RET)
Neva H. Hodges ~ Feb. 13 (CO)
Connie H. Young ~ Feb. 13 (GG)
Edward L. Embrey ~ Feb. 15 (R3)
John D. Miller ~ Feb. 16 (CO)
George L. Nelson ~ Feb. 17 (CO)
J. Wyatt Cox ~ Feb. 20 (R1)
William L. Saunders ~ Feb. 21 (RET)
M. Barbara White ~ Feb. 22 (CO)
Robert C. Kennedy ~ Feb. 24 (R5)
William R. Miller ~ Feb. 24 (R6)
Martha E. D. Warring ~ Feb. 26 (R3)
Jason A. Braunstein ~ Feb. 27 (CO)
C. Kenneth Doss ~ Feb. 28 (R6)
Douglas E. Audley ~ Feb. 29 (R4)
Bradley W. Carico ~ Mar. 1 (R6)
Dwight H. Stallard ~ Mar. 2 (GG)
Jay S. Bassett ~ Mar. 3 (R1)
Rodney T. Newlin ~ Mar. 3 (R3)
Gregory P. O'Donnell ~ Mar. 3 (CO)

Rodney W. Keenon ~ Mar. 4 (RET)
Cynthia M. Bronner ~ Mar. 6 (R2)
Phyllis F. Carruthers ~ Mar. 6 (RET)
Karen E. Stanley ~ Mar. 6 (R5)
John W. Kauffman ~ Mar. 7 (R1)
James W. Harris ~ Mar. 10 (RET)
Gary A. Heiser ~ Mar. 12 (SF)
Kathleen A. Ogilvy ~ Mar. 12 (R2)
G. Shannon Lewis ~ Mar. 13 (R4)
Harold A. Fisher ~ Mar. 14 (R3)
Bret A. Robinson ~ Mar. 14 (R3)
Richard D. Reuse ~ Mar. 15 (R2)
Todd A. Groh ~ Mar. 18 (CO)
Deborah M. Howe ~ Mar. 18 (CO)
Bruce D. Harmon ~ Mar. 19 (R3)
James A. Pugh ~ Mar. 19 (CO)
David E. Queen ~ Mar. 21 (CO)
Richard Holman ~ Mar. 23 (SF)
R. Barry Crawford ~ Mar. 25 (R5)
Hylton J.G. Haynes ~ Mar. 26 (R1)
Michael C. Womack ~ Mar. 29 (SF)

Mail Bag

The Wonder of Nature

Photo taken by Riley Bruce, technician, Region 6, Bland County



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

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Summer Issue -- May 1, 2007

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2007

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2007

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please notify of address corrections