



# FORESTRY *ews*

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

**MISSION:**

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

## LONGLEAF PROVENCE STUDY GOES VERY WELL

When the first English settlers arrived in 1607 to establish the Jamestowne Colony, the dominant tree species in upland forests south of what became the James River was longleaf pine. Valued for its quality lumber, excellent masts for ships, naval stores (turpentine, tar, pitch), and an open understory that provided prime grazing land for cattle, it was virtually eliminated from the Virginia landscape by the mid-1800s.

The Virginia Department of Forestry has been working to restore longleaf pine in the Commonwealth. One research study that began in 2006 holds great promise. This research effort was designed to compare survival and growth of Virginia longleaf seedlings to those originating from eight geographic areas stretching from Mississippi to North Carolina. The seedlings were planted at three locations in early 2006.

"After just one season, the native Virginia seedlings have survived as well as or better than those from any other location," said Jerre Creighton, VDOF research manager. "We're very excited about the results."

In addition, VDOF collaborated with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) last year on the first-ever large-scale effort to collect seed from the remaining known wild Virginia longleaf pines. VDOF's Billy Apperson and DCR's Darren Loomis constructed rough trails to more than 50 trees so that they could collect more than 200 bushels of longleaf cones. This effort yielded 62 pounds of sound seed. As many as 300,000 native Virginia longleaf pines may be grown from this collection and used in coming years for restoration efforts in southeast Virginia. Plans are in place to collect cones again this year.



Landowners interested in longleaf pine restoration and management should be advised that cost-share dollars are available to assist them with site preparation, planting and burning to establish longleaf pine.

**Carl Garrison,  
State Forester**

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# Message

## FROM THE STATE FORESTER



As you read this, the 2007 session of the General Assembly will be in its final days or will have already concluded since this is a short session. Of course, as I write this, the session is at about the half-way point. That said, I would like to give you an update on what's happening at the State Capitol midway through this session.

There are several pieces (17 in the House and 8 in the Senate) of legislation that are of interest to our Agency. You can find all of them at <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/info/2007-General-Assembly-tracking-sheet.shtml>. I won't address all of them here, but will highlight a few.

HB2339 would authorize the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries to sell permits for hunting and trapping in State Forests. If this bill becomes law, it will provide wider access to our permits through DGIF's Web site. The bill passed the House, was communicated to the Senate, and is being reviewed by the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources. I fully expect this bill to pass without opposition.

HB2486 and SB939 would require developers to conserve trees during the development process for air quality improvement in certain localities. This bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns. The Senate bill was defeated in the Local Government Committee. There is too much opposition from the Building Association, and I fear this will not pass.

HB2555, HB2656 and SB1273 would require all major facility projects of state agencies to be constructed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) silver certification standard. The bill is in the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Finance Committee. This is the fifth year this bill has shown up and it has already been passed by and assigned to another committee, which is usually a sign of death to the bill.

HB3135 designates that 1/8 of the proceeds generated by the Appomattox-Buckingham and Cumberland State Forests go to the counties of Appomattox, Buckingham and Cumberland and 1/8 go to VDOF to enhance recreational opportunities in the State Forests located in those counties. The bill passed the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee and has been reported to the floor of the House.

Several other bills would establish legislative subcommittees to study such things as long-term funding for the purchase of development rights, programs to encourage the production of electricity from renewable resources, and the risks and opportunities associated with climate change.

As you can see, there's plenty going on. To read about the most recent activity on any of these bills, simply log on to <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/info/2007-General-Assembly-tracking-sheet.shtml>.

I conclude today by reminding you to be safe as we go through another spring fire season. The 2006 season was a busy one for us, and this year's spring fire season could be a repeat if the indicators are correct. Remember, your safety should always be your first priority on the fire line. Never let it be anything less!

*Carl Harrison*  
State Forester

# Awards AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## 2006 MOUNTAIN CASTLES SWCD FORESTRY AWARD

*Submitted by Bob Boeren, forester, Region 5, Botetourt and Roanoke Counties*

Bob Boeren recently awarded the 2006 Mountain Castles SWCD Forestry Award to Lanier Frantz. Mr. Frantz owns 1,500 acres near New Castle in Craig County. The property is under a conservation easement and borders national forest. Mr. Frantz has been managing his property since 1960 for forestry, wildlife and agriculture. He has worked with the VDOF, MeadWestvaco, SWCD, NRCS, VDGIF and Ducks Unlimited to name a few. He also has a gliderport on the property, and he was featured in MeadWestvaco's Forest Focus magazine in 2005. He was one of the first landowners to receive the higher cost-share rate (practice 8, \$75/acre) that VDOF allows for properties that are under a conservation easement. He recently completed a release project for 15 acres and his out-of-pocket expenses were less than \$300. He was also runner-up for the state SWCD forestry award.



*Bob Boeren (left) presents Forestry Award to Mr. Lanier Frantz*

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TREE CITY ARBOR DAY AWARD

*Submitted by Pres Trower, technician, Region 1, Accomack and Northampton counties*

Pres Trower presented the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree City Arbor Day award to Captain Scott Carlson of Wallops Naval Base in Assateague, Va. Volunteers plant trees on the base, mostly in the residential area. Congratulations to Marilyn Ailes, coordinator of the Tree City program on the Base, and the base personnel participating in the Tree City program on Wallops Naval Base.



## READ MOUNTAIN OPEN HOUSE

*Submitted by Jon Willoughby, technician, Botetourt County*

Read Mountain in Botetourt County hosted an open house October 15, 2006, which was a success with an estimated 300 people, including Smokey, attending. Numerous displays were set up including: an extrication display, ropes display, live burn display, lifeguard display and a Firewise display. VDOF was on site to provide information about Virginia's fire laws and the Firewise Program and how homeowners can make their homes safe. We guided landowners with helpful tips on how to burn safely and take proper precautions. Bob Boeren also answered questions on forest management from some of the landowners. The Firewise trailer worked out well for this event.



*Bob Boeren (left) and Jon Willoughby stand ready to share information with attendees at the Read Mountain Open House.*

Our primary role there was to promote Firewise, fire laws and fire safety. But we also talked about management and laws with landowners; about firefighting with potential part-time firefighters, and about careers in forestry.

# Training

FOCUS

## BASIC FIRE COURSE PREPARES NEW EMPLOYEES

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

Fourteen Agency employees completed the 2007 Basic Fire Training program held at the New Kent Conference Center January 29 – February 2. The 38-hour course covers nearly 30 topics ranging from fire behavior and weather to fire suppression and tractor/plow operations.

“Basic Fire really sets the stage for what most of our employees will face in the field,” said Larry Cochran, assistant director of resource protection – fire training. “One of the core responsibilities of our Agency is wildland fire suppression, and the Basic Fire Training program teaches the tools and techniques that people need to ensure we accomplish this mission and do it safely.”

Instructor Mike Stoneburner told the students that wildland firefighting is inherently dangerous, and that the most dangerous job on a fire line is that of sawyer. Stoneburner demonstrated the safe and proper operation of a chain saw to fell a tree.

Students said that they learned a lot, especially the course content that related to fire behavior, suppression techniques and equipment.

Members of the 2007 class include: Lynwood Rogers, Ellen Powell, Kyla Sabo, Abe Bear, Wyatt Cox, Brian Schneider, Jim McGlone, L.E. Rhodes, Andrew Brown, Kevin Dawson, Adam Smith, Ben Parsons, Travis Rivers and Brian Rogers.

Instructors were: John Miller, Richard Thomas, Fred Turck, Larry Cochran, Dennis Gaston, Dave Milby, Scott Bachman, Rich Steensma, Heather Manson, Derek Keiser, Steve Counts, Warren Coburn, Paul Stoneburner, Mike Stoneburner, Will Shoup, Paul Reiser and Nelson Shaw.



# LONG-SERVING VDOF EMPLOYEE TELLS ALL

*Submitted by Gregg O'Donnell, webmaster, Public Information Division*

Barry Crawford grew up in northern Roanoke County, and, as you might expect, developed interests in the outdoors and wildlife. From these interests, and opportunity, Crawford spent 43 years in state service supporting the efforts of the Virginia Department of Forestry. Crawford retired Dec. 31, 2006.

Crawford worked for the Department of Health in the early 1960s, and, after 18 months of military service in Korea, he joined VDOF in 1967. "Wayne Garman asked me if I wanted to work at DOF in road maintenance," Crawford recalls. "At that time, we maintained all the fire trails in the state."

He spent 11 months on the building and grounds crew, working on a variety of assignments. In late 1967, he was a member of the construction crew for the Augusta Forestry Center. His work included framing, painting and putting on the roofs. "The agency prided itself on being self-sufficient" and providing manpower for these projects.

Barry was assigned to Salem in 1968 and served as the chief warden for Roanoke County, a position he held until January 2000, when he became the regional technician. "As a warden, I was expected to go out and contact landowners and offer our services. There probably isn't a piece of productive forest land in Roanoke County that I haven't been on," he says, adding, "except for the steep parts. We got reforestation jobs from visiting debris burning and land-clearing activities."

Crawford describes the atmosphere of the agency he would grow to love and work for the rest of his career. "The agency really prided itself on its 'can do' spirit," he recalls. "Everyone would pitch in together to work on a project to get things done. Much more 'we' and 'us' than 'I' and 'me'. We'd go to Waverly and do re-inspections for a week - there was more crossing of borders [in those days]. At one point, I knew the majority of the employees throughout the state, working with them, training with them, etc."

He continues, "In those days, everybody knew everybody, and you all got together and visited. We had family picnics every summer; our kids played together. We'd get together and cut wood for somebody, make a day out of it. At the end of fire season, we'd go to Smith Mountain Lake, rent a pontoon boat and fish. We'd canoe on the James River together or have a pig roast barbecue. You prided yourself in your work; you worked when it was time to work, and then you played too."

"I've enjoyed my job because I worked with a variety of people over the years, both inside and outside the agency." He admits the workload was "steady, but not overwhelming with just one activity." Crawford has seen improvements over time. "You had many more field people in the old days. Today, the equipment is better. You used to load and unload seedlings by hand, and now we use forklifts to move boxes of seedlings."

Barry's lengthy service has satisfied him, but he welcomes this new phase of his life, which will keep him busy. The idea of part-time work, especially yard work and landscaping, appeals to him, but he's going to keep a low-profile for the next few months. "I have a 'honey do' list of course," he says, "and I'll work on painting the inside of the house. I'll get back to hunting and fishing. When the weather gets warm, I plan on being outside. As my neighbor suggested, it's time for me to reinvent the fishing rod."



# Forest Change Detection

Submitted by Jim Pugh, GIS/remote sensing analyst, Resource Information Division

Remote sensing is most simply defined as the process of collecting information about something without touching it. When a forester or technician takes a photograph of a recent harvest or other location of interest with a digital camera, he or she is conducting a basic form of remote sensing. The camera records the brightness of the light reflected by objects in the view to produce an image which can be saved and analyzed later.

For those of us working in Resource Information's spatial analysis section, remote sensing more specifically refers to the use of satellite imagery to derive information about the earth's surface. One of the tasks we completed in 2006 was the creation of an updated statewide forest cover map using satellite imagery collected between late fall 2003 and spring 2005. This map was created to provide a current estimate of total forest area in Virginia and identifies areas of deciduous, coniferous, mixed and recently harvested forest as well as other types of land cover.

More recently, we have been using new imagery collected in spring 2006 to update this map and locate areas of recent forest change due to human activity or natural disturbance. Our primary goal is to identify forest harvests and provide an estimate of their extent.

We use Landsat satellite imagery purchased from the US Geological Survey (USGS) for this mapping for several reasons. It is readily available, relatively inexpensive compared to other satellite imagery, and is regularly being collected by multiple satellites that provide coverage for the entire state. Each image depicts an area of about 115 x 115 miles and 15 images are required for complete coverage of Va. Images are collected on a repeating basis, which provides new data for the same area approximately every 16 days. Although many of the images contain areas obscured by clouds or haze, especially during summer, we are able to

obtain good-quality, cloud-free images regularly enough for forest mapping and change detection.

When the forester or technician takes a photo with a digital camera, the camera detects the brightness of reflected sunlight in the portion of the spectrum that is visible to the human eye (red, green, and blue light). This brightness is recorded as a series of small pixels (similar to the squares on a sheet of graph paper) and it is a composite of these pixels that produces the image we see. One of the most useful things about Landsat imagery is that in addition to recording visible light in the same fashion as a digital camera, it also records light reflected in the infrared portion of the spectrum. This infrared light is not visible to the human eye but contains considerable information about the amount and type of vegetation on the earth's surface. Using specialized computer software, we are able to display and analyze infrared information, which we normally cannot see, from Landsat images. This information greatly improves our ability to accurately map land cover (Figure 1).

Landsat imagery has a spatial resolution of 30 meters, which means that each pixel in the image depicts an area on the ground of about 100 x 100 feet. Obviously, at this scale we cannot identify individual trees but are instead mapping approximately ¼-acre blocks of similar land cover. This resolution is sufficient for forest mapping and change detection at a statewide scale.

Our current analysis is being conducted on two sets of images in separate parts of the state. The first set encompasses the Eastern Shore and most of the Tidewater region and consists of images from Feb. 19, 2002, April 5, 2004, and April 11, 2006. The second set includes most of the Piedmont, Shenandoah Valley and northern mountains and consists of images from Nov.

13, 2001, May 8, 2005, and April 9, 2006. Together these two sets of images provide coverage for approximately 60 percent of the state.

Even though they depict the same area, images from different dates are influenced by a variety of environmental conditions and must be standardized before analysis can begin. This step is called "preprocessing" and includes geographic registration of the images so that corresponding landscape features are correctly aligned and image enhancement to remove effects of sun angle and elevation or other atmospheric variation. There are standard methods for making these corrections and it is largely an automated process. Once complete, this enhancement helps ensure



Figure 1: Portion of April 11, 2006 Landsat image displayed as visible light (top) and enhanced with infrared light (bottom). Examples of deciduous forest (1), coniferous forest (2), and recent harvest (3) are labeled.

# n Using Remote Sensing

that any changes we detect reflect actual conditions on the ground rather than other atmospheric factors.

After preprocessing, we look for major differences in the brightness of reflected light (called "reflectance") between image dates in the visible and infrared portions of the spectrum. These changes in reflectance indicate some type of change in the features on the ground. This can include removal of vegetation through forest harvest, natural disturbance, or urban development; increases in vegetation due to tree plantings or forest regrowth; and increases or decreases due to seasonal changes in crop growth.

Image processing software makes detecting differences in brightness between two dates of imagery quite simple. We just subtract the pixel values from one image date from the corresponding pixel values for the second date. The difficulty can be in interpreting what these differences represent on the ground and, in some cases, the changes in reflectance can be quite similar for different types of land cover. For example, changes might be similar for a stand of forest that was harvested between image dates and an agricultural field that contained growing crops in the first image but only crop stubble in the second. Confusion can also arise due to minor seasonal differences between images. One of the images used for the central part of the state was collected May 8, 2005 and in this image, spring green up has begun to advance part way up the lower slopes of some mountains. In the second image, dated April 4, 2006, the forest on these slopes is in leaf-off condition. Differences in reflectance between the two dates due to this seasonal effect are similar to those for some forest harvests.

Fortunately, there are standard ways to deal with much of this confusion. One simple method is to use our existing forest cover map to mask out urban, agriculture, and other non-forest land and restrict our analysis to forested lands only. Although all maps have some error, this method can effectively remove the majority of confusion between forest and non-forest areas. In addition, other supplementary geographic data on population density, city and municipal boundaries, and roads can be very helpful in improving our analysis and the quality of our map products. We can also compare our results with existing FIA data to identify areas requiring further examination.

Analysis of these images is nearly complete, and we will begin assessing the accuracy of our results soon. By the time this article appears, some of you may have received maps of areas identified as harvest (Figure 2) and asked for your comments. This input will help us identify any remaining errors and allow further improvement of map accuracy.

We plan to conduct ongoing analysis of forest change and updates to our forest cover map as new Landsat imagery becomes available over time. In the future, we hope to investigate the use of similar image analysis techniques for riparian buffer and forest health monitoring. Remote sensing can't replace the work of people on the ground and, in fact, our analysis would be much more difficult and far less accurate without the information gathered by VDOF employees in the field. It does, however, provide another useful tool to assist with our mission of managing Virginia's forest resources.

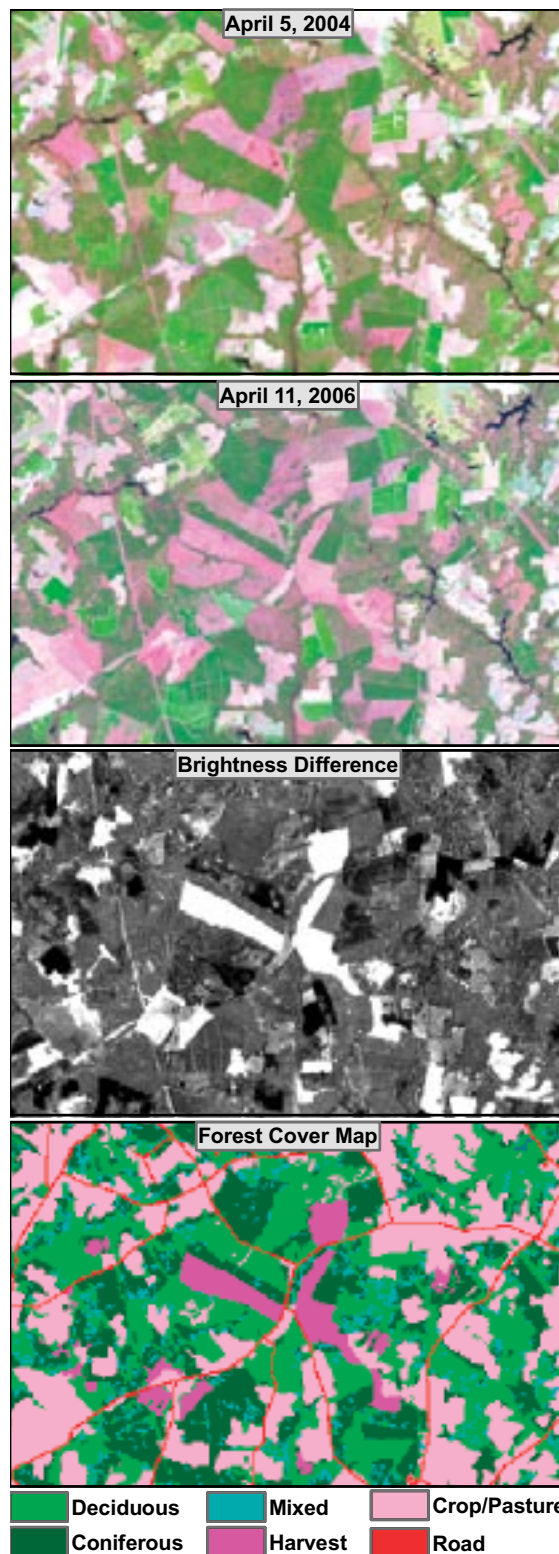


Figure 2: Pine forest change between April 5, 2004 and April 11, 2006. The difference image shows major vegetation decrease as bright white and the forest cover map identifies some of these areas as recent harvests.

# International Forestry

FOCUS

## CHINESE STATE FORESTRY OFFICIALS VISIT CENTRAL VIRGINIA FOR IDEAS

*Submitted by Nelson Shaw, forester, Region 3, Albemarle County*

Just before the holidays, 19 men and women from China visited Albemarle County to learn a bit about forestry practices in Virginia. Three officials from the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) met with the group from the State Forestry Administration of China as part of a three-state tour that included Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia.

After spending the early part of the day listening to a brief overview of current forestry practices in the state and various operations, such as cost-share programs that are available to Virginia's landowners, they were taken on a bus tour to see several demonstrations of the stages of timber management around the County.

"They were very interested in our reforestation program," said Todd Groh, VDOP assistant director of forest management.

They first visited a cutover piece of timberland that is ready for planting this spring. Then they journeyed to a tree farm where the landowners were using Virginia's "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) – where the goal is sustainable forestry and pro-active land management that protects the environment while providing a regular 'crop' of trees.

Nelson Shaw, VDOP's Albemarle County forester, said, "During the tour, they saw one area that was aerial site prepared and another area showing last spring's planting. They learned how Virginia is not only protecting its waterways through BMPs but is restoring its riparian areas as well."

The group also stopped at a tree-thinning operation and learned the importance of that practice. Lastly, they visited an area where trees were being harvested, even getting to witness a hydro-ax harvest one of the trees in front of them.

Shaw said, "This was, by far, the tour stop that most impressed the visitors."

The purpose of the visit was an opportunity to pass on American know-how to interested parties from a developing nation.

Shaw added, "These practices are routine for us, but are still being developed in China."

Virginia landowners interested in learning more about Best Management Practices can contact their local Virginia Department of Forestry office for more information.





# IT'S ABOUT RESPECT

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

Agency employees are better prepared to deal with threatening or potentially dangerous situations thanks to training received during the past several months. From September 2006 through January 2007, a total of 11 training sessions were conducted on the topics of conflict resolution, workplace violence and anti-discrimination laws (U.S. Title VI and VII).

"Nearly every employee (280) in the Agency received this important training," said Debbie Howe, director of human resources. "And they earned five E.D.G.E. credits toward their annual goals of 30 credits."

Howe led two of the four presentations given during each session of "It's About Respect" training. The six people who missed one of the sessions will go through the training at a session for all employees who join the Agency this year.

One of the most talked about topics that was presented during the sessions was the one focusing on workplace violence. Training Coordinator and Agency Safety Officer Anne Skalski led that session, which began by trying to establish a link between violence in the workplace and a postage stamp.

"The phrase 'Going Postal' has come to define workplace violence," she said. "By teaching the warning signs and alerting employees to the many different types of workplace violence, all of our folks should be a bit safer when they come to work each day. We don't want any of our employees to become one of the 1 Million Americans affected by workplace violence each year."

The most frustrating part of the day occurred during the Title VI portion of the training. Employees had the "opportunity to earn a \$100 bill" by providing the correct answer to one question or problem. However, to drive the point home about everyone's role in ensuring equal access to information and services, the question or problem was written in a foreign language that no one understood and several employees were "made blind, deaf or put in wheelchairs" so that they could not access the question or problem and, thus, were not able to "compete" for the money.

Howe said, "Thanks to everyone who took the training. Your time, attention and participation are appreciated."



*Employees from Region 2 discuss intimidating and harassing behaviors during "It's About Respect" training.*



## A RARE SIGHT WITH A HAPPY ENDING

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

While driving to meet a landowner in August, I found this eagle standing on the side of White Oak Road in Dinwiddie County. Something was definitely wrong with the bird, because it did not move for traffic or people walking around it. As you can see in the picture, it was right on the side of the road. The game warden and County animal control officer were able to get the bird to a local veterinarian, who determined that one of the bird's wings was broken. The break was old and beginning to show signs of infection. The eagle was taken to Richmond for rehabilitation.



# Human Resources

## NEWS

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### WELCOME!!!

**Andrew Brown** is our new forester for Halifax County in Region 4. He has his bachelor's in forest resource management from Virginia Tech. Andrew most recently served as VDOF's forest health intern.

**Kevin Dawson** is our new water quality specialist in Region 4. He has his bachelor's in forestry and wildlife from Virginia Tech. Kevin has worked as a procurement forester for MeadWestvaco. He has also worked for his family's logging business in Rustburg.

**Ben Parsons** is our new water quality specialist in Region 5. He has his bachelor's in forest resource management from West Virginia University. For the past year, Ben has been working as an FIA technician in Region 5. Prior to that, he worked at Weyerhaeuser and Oak Crest Lumber.

**Adam Smith** is our new technician for Campbell County in Region 4. He has an associate's in forestry technology and a bachelor's in wood products business and marketing, both from Pennsylvania State University.

**Sandy Mills** is our new program support technician for Region 3. For the past year, Sandy has been working part-time for VDOF, covering the program support technician position for Resource Protection and the receptionist position at Central Office.

**Lynwood Rogers** is our new forest inventory analysis specialist for Region 2. For the past 2½ years, Lynwood has been serving as the part-time forest inventory analysis technician for Region 3.

**Danny Fortune** is our new equipment service and repair supervisor at the Central Office Shop. He comes to us from the University of Virginia and formerly worked with the Virginia Department of Transportation for 21 years.

**Mary Frazier** is our new fiscal technician at Central Office. Mary has worked as a part-time fiscal technician for the past two years.

**Darrel Pendris** is our new forester for Prince William County in Region 3. He received his bachelor's in forestry from the University of Vermont. Most recently, Darrel worked as a research assistant for the University of

Vermont. He also served for three years in the U.S. Navy. He reports March 10, 2007.

### MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**Bruce Edwards**, technician for Brunswick County in Region 1, has been promoted to the water quality specialist for Region 1.

**Russell Proctor**, technician for Scott County in Region 6, has been promoted to a water quality specialist for Region 6.

**Herb Reynolds**, technician for Madison County in Region 3, has been promoted to the water quality specialist for Region 3.

**Stuart Sours**, technician for Franklin County in Region 5, has been promoted to a water quality specialist for Region 5.

**Steve Wells**, technician for Russell County in Region 6, has been promoted to a water quality specialist for Region 6.

**Travis Rivers**, technician for Patrick County in Region 5, has been promoted to forester for Franklin County in Region 5.

### FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

**Jim Ebbert**, forester for Franklin County in Region 5, retired from VDOF on Jan. 1, 2007. Thank you, Jim, for your 35 years, 11 months and 2 weeks of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia!

**Barry Crawford**, regional technician for Region 5, retired from VDOF on Jan. 1, 2007. Barry is our longest serving VDOF state employee with 43 years and 7 months of service. Thank you, Barry, for your many years of service!

**Michael Boston**, director of general services, resigned to pursue a career with the US Army National Ground Intelligence Center.

**Thomas Smith**, technician for Bedford County in Region 5, resigned to work with the US Capitol Police in Washington, DC.

**Mindia Brown**, information technology manager in the Resource Information Division, is leaving VDOF and moving to Florida. Her last work day is March 9. We wish her the best of luck in the future.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**Connie Young**, forestry worker at Garland Gray Forestry Center, became a very proud grandmother for the third time. Lydia Annette Noreau was born February 2. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

**Phil Carpenter**, pilot, Resource Protection Division, became a grand-dad on February 5. Emily Grace made her grand appearance weighing in at 8 pounds, 7½ ounces! Congratulations to Phil, Grandma Pam and new Mom, Colleen.

### CONDOLENCES

**Judy Thompson**, part-time at the New Kent Forestry Center, lost her father in December. Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy and her family.

**Donald J. Bryant**, 75, of Stafford County died Nov. 28, 2006, at his home. Donald was chief forest warden for Stafford County in Region 2. He worked with VDOF from December 1963 until his 1991 retirement.

**Leslie Mace**, technician for Pittsylvania County in Region 5, lost his dad in January. Mr. Mace made his home in North Carolina. Our thoughts are with Leslie, wife Stephanie and their family.

### 2006 SERVICE AWARDS

Thank you to the following employees who reached their service milestones in 2006!!

#### 5-YEARS:

Jason Braunstein, GIS technician, C.O.  
Debbie Howe, HR Director, C.O.  
Greg Meade, asst. regional forester, R3  
Patti Nylander, forester, Augusta Co., R3  
Randy Short, forester, Scott Co., R6  
Tom Snoddy, forester, Spotsylvania Co., R2  
Karen Stanley, forester, Rockbridge Co., R5  
Ed Stoots, regional forester, R6

#### 10-YEARS:

Phil Crigger, accounting manager, C.O.

#### 15-YEARS:

David Bruce, B&G carpenter, C.O.  
John Campbell, public information director, C.O.  
John Pemberton, FIA manager, C.O.

#### 20-YEARS:

Mary Gay Altizer, program support tech., R6  
Charlene Bardon, program support tech., R4  
Bob Boeren, forester, Botetourt Co., R5  
David Cooper, technician, Pulaski Co., R5  
Randy Fleming, technician, Washington Co., R6  
Gary Heiser, state forests manager, State Forests  
Nelson Hillyer, technician, Essex Co., R2

Chuck Hutsell, regional forester, R5  
 Stuart Sours, water quality specialist, R5  
 Dennis Vaughan, equipment repair tech., R4

### 25-YEARS:

Blair Dalton, technician, Mecklenburg Co., R4  
 Billy Hall, technician, Buckingham Co., R4  
 Neva Hodges, senior fiscal technician, C.O.  
 Rodger Moyers, technician, Augusta Co., R3  
 Brenda Taylor, administrative staff asst., C.O.  
 Sue Tennant, asst. regional forester, R4  
 Chris Thomsen, asst. regional forester, R5

### 30-YEARS:

William Carlton, technician, King and Queen Co., R2

### 35-YEARS:

Jerry Bailey, technician, Caroline Co., R2  
 Jim Ebbert, forester, Franklin Co., R5  
 Eddie Embrey, technician, Nelson Co., R3  
 Larry Estes, forestry center supv., AFC

### 40-YEARS:

Ralph Brubaker, equipment service and repair manager, C.O.

## REGION 1 CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Submitted by Ed Zimmer, regional forester, Region 1*

The days are short and there's a chill in the air (not really a chill, but at least it's not 90+ degrees anymore.) It must be time for the Waverly Region annual Christmas party. There was no snow to greet the guests, just plenty of food and some great fellowship with many current and former Waverly Region alumni.



*Kneeling, l to r: Todd Groh (formerly of R-1), Larry Willis, Dean Cumbia (formerly of R-1), Anne Duff (RT Board Chair), Cody Daniels, Joe Rossetti. Second row, l to r: Charles Rose (RT Board member), Angela Conary, Heather Manson, Ed Zimmer, Abe Bear, Tanya White, Toni Sanderson. Back row, l to r: John Rose, Justin Hancock, Matt Jedra, Zach Dowling, Thomas Edmonds, Scott Bachman, Fred Turck.*



*Front row, l to r: Emil Stech (VDOF, Ret.), Joyce Stech, Parker Russell (VDOF, Ret.), Becky Phelps, Mike Jarratt, J. B. Jarratt (VDOF, Ret.), Kitty Hancock, Anne Bright, Phyllis Caruthers (VDOF, Ret.), and Donald Carruthers. Back row, l to r: Joe Hancock (VDOF, Ret.), Jim Bright (VDOF, Ret.), and Crockett Morris (VDOF, Ret.).*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wayne L. Perfater ~ Apr. 1 (R5)  
 Lawrence M. Dunn ~ Apr. 3 (RET)  
 James C. Bowling ~ Apr. 3 (R4)  
 Kristina D. Woodie ~ Apr. 4 (CO)  
 Orville L. Long ~ Apr. 4 (RET)  
 Gale B. Washburn ~ Apr. 4 (R4)  
 Paul M. Reier ~ Apr. 5 (R2)  
 Carl B. Belew ~ Apr. 9 (CO)  
 William R. Ruby ~ Apr. 9 (RET)  
 Ernest W. Thompson ~ Apr. 11 (CO)  
 Zachary H. Dowling ~ Apr. 13 (R1)  
 Joseph L. Lehnen ~ Apr. 15 (R3)  
 David A. Milby ~ Apr. 16 (R2)  
 Edward Washington ~ Apr. 16 (NK)  
 David Richert ~ Apr. 20 (R6)  
 John H. Pemberton ~ Apr. 21 (CO)  
 Ralph J. Brubaker ~ Apr. 22 (CO)  
 Steven Counts ~ Apr. 25 (R6)  
 Dennis L. York ~ Apr. 25 (RET)  
 Richard A. Gravelly ~ Apr. 25 (R4)  
 Kenneth W. Mohler ~ Apr. 27 (R5)

Donald W. Garman ~ Apr. 29 (R6)  
 Charles W. Becker ~ May 1 (CO)  
 Gregory H. Winston ~ May 2 (R4)  
 Percy W. Ayers ~ May 3 (CO)  
 Donna S. Hoy ~ May 3 (CO)  
 Jerre L. Creighton ~ May 4 (CO)  
 Stephen M. Moyer ~ May 5 (R3)  
 Stanley F. Warner ~ May 8 (RET)  
 Arthur G. Cox ~ May 9 (RET)  
 Paul F. Revell ~ May 10 (CO)  
 Travis H. Rivers ~ May 10 (R5)  
 Bernard A. Brooks ~ May 10 (R4)  
 Christopher S. Asaro ~ May 12 (CO)  
 James H. Guess ~ May 14 (RET)  
 Clara V. Rowe ~ May 15 (R2)  
 L. Wayne Huskey ~ May 16 (CO)  
 Lynwood P. Rogers ~ May 16 (CO)  
 Sandra G. Booth ~ May 16 (R5)  
 C. Russell Proctor ~ May 19 (R6)  
 Derek O. Keiser ~ May 20 (R3)  
 Gregory S. Meade ~ May 20 (R3)

Dean P. Cumbia ~ May 20 (CO)  
 C. William Bruffey ~ May 22 (CO)  
 Dennis W. Anderson ~ May 24 (R5)  
 Larry W. Layman ~ May 24 (RET)  
 Pauline Lucas ~ May 25 (RET)  
 S. Mindia Brown ~ May 27 (CO)  
 Jessica A. Parker ~ May 28 (CO)  
 Amy M. Ricotta ~ May 29 (CO)  
 William L. Braford ~ May 30 (RET)  
 Richard H. Miles ~ May 31 (RET)  
 Rebecca L. Woodson ~ June 1 (CO)  
 Donald M. Davis ~ June 5 (R1)  
 Brian J. Schneider ~ June 6 (R2)  
 Richard L. Starnes ~ June 7 (RET)  
 Mary Gay Altizer ~ June 7 (R6)  
 Justin B. Hancock ~ June 9 (R1)  
 Donald L. Parrott ~ June 10 (RET)  
 Joseph C. Street ~ June 11 (CO)  
 Margaret Carpenter ~ June 12 (CO)  
 H. F. Jones ~ June 12 (R6)  
 David L. Stone ~ June 12 (R3)

Adam C. Smith ~ June 14 (R4)  
 Frank N. Wood ~ June 14 (RET)  
 B. David Edwards ~ June 15 (R6)  
 Gerald R. Crowell ~ June 16 (R3)  
 Vanessa B. Blick ~ June 20 (GG)  
 Abraham F. Bear ~ June 21 (R1)  
 Carolyn G. Haggerty ~ June 22 (AG)  
 Dennis R. Vaughan ~ June 24 (R4)  
 James C. Clark ~ June 25 (R5)  
 Thomas A. Edmonds ~ June 25 (R1)  
 David B. Powell ~ June 25 (R3)  
 James R. Gering ~ June 26 (RET)  
 Preston E. Trower ~ June 26 (R1)  
 Brenda H. Taylor ~ June 26 (CO)  
 Larry R. Willis ~ June 26 (R1)  
 Samuel R. Barkley ~ June 27 (R3)  
 Todd A. Edgerton ~ June 28 (CO)  
 James N. Ebbert ~ June 28 (RET)  
 Edward P. Furlow ~ June 30 (R3)  
 Robert M. Thurman ~ June 30 (R5)  
 David W. Slack ~ June 30 (R2)



# Mail Bag

## MATTHEWS STATE FOREST PRAISED

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

The Following note was left in the door of the new Carroll and Grayson counties / Matthews State Forest Office Building on Nov. 8, 2006:

*“Great Birding spot – saw 21 species in a little over 2 hours. Really enjoyed and appreciated tree I.D. signs – I’m retired forester from California and learned most of your trees in Forestry school 50 years ago and have forgotten many of your trees. It was like my own private nature preserve today. No new life birds but saw Winter Wren, Golden Crowned Kinglet, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Hermit Thrush and Ruby Crowned Kinglet amongst others. My son lives in Galax but I wouldn’t have known about this forest except for reading about it in “Discover our Wild Side” – the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail I obtained at the Galax Chamber of Commerce. Thanks, Oliver Kolkmann, Willit, California”*

This note goes to show and demonstrate the value of conserving working forests – we’ve done nothing really special on the Matthews but provide some trails and signage for the public to enjoy and learn about nature and forests – you never know who our next guest might be or from where that person may come.

### Contacts AND INFORMATION

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

The deadlines are as follows:

**Summer Issue -- May 1, 2007**

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2007

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2007

Spring Issue -- February 1, 2008

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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 02/2007



**Virginia Department of Forestry  
900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903**

please notify of address corrections