



FORESTRY News

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

MISSION:

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

50 TREE CITY USA^s IN VIRGINIA

Submitted by Barbara White, urban and community forestry partnership coordinator, Resource Management Division

With help from field personnel all across the state, Virginia reached a milestone this year with 50 communities earning the Tree City USA Award. Four new communities (Charlottesville, Farmville, Martinsville and Purcellville) earned the designation this year enabling Virginia to attain this milestone.

In celebration of this event, VDOF held an awards luncheon April 24th in Charlottesville. Secretary of Forestry & Agriculture Robert Bloxom was the keynote speaker, and he joined State Forester Carl Garrison to present the awards to representatives of the 37 Tree City USA communities who were able to attend.

The Tree City USA award has been in existence for 30 years as a program of the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. Virginia's four longest-running communities are Falls Church for 29 years, Virginia Beach for 27 years, and both Lynchburg and Winchester for 25 years.

Urban & Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator Barbara White said, "It is good to see that the Tree City USA communities are widely distributed across the state. They are in every VDOF Region. This year, eight military bases earned the award – with Fort Monroe, located in Hampton, having earned it for 20 consecutive years."

There are several Virginia communities that are working towards earning the Tree City USA award and others that have begun to show interest, according to White.

"As communities work toward attaining this award, they begin to be more aware of the benefits provided by their community forest and, therefore, are more willing to spend funds towards the planting, care and maintenance of their public trees," she said. "As the community forest is improved, the economic and environmental benefits associated with trees convey to the whole community."

For more information or if you have any questions relating to Tree City USA and how a community progresses towards this award, contact Barbara White at (434) 977-6555 for information and assistance.

**Carl Garrison,
State Forester**

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Secretary Bloxom (far left) and Carl Garrison (far right) present the Tree City USA award to Wallops Island Surface Combat Systems Center.

Message

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



After two years of being fortunate enough to write the State Forester's column in Forestry News, you know that this has been a golden opportunity for me to highlight your many accomplishments and/or to thank you for all the extraordinary work that you perform for the citizens of the Commonwealth. This edition of my letter, unfortunately, will not be one of those. And I hope to never have to write one like this again.

For any of you who have been with our Agency for more than a few years, you know just how far VDOF has come as it relates to safety in the workplace. Whether it's on the fire line, in an office or in an Agency vehicle, we have all worked hard to provide for your safety. We have safety committees in each Region. We have appointed a safety officer for the Agency. We have purchased many of the latest items available in the marketplace that are especially made to ensure your safety. Every one of the steps we've taken and the equipment we've purchased have cost the Agency significant amounts of money – but we made the investment because there is no substitute for your well being.

Sadly, we still have one area that we can't always control – individual behavior. Try as we may to get them to do otherwise, there are some employees who should know better than to operate in an unsafe manner; drive Agency vehicles recklessly, or make the decision to do something that puts themselves and/or others at risk. This is simply and completely unacceptable.

Sure, we can deal with these individuals after the fact, but we shouldn't have to. We're supposed to be professionals. We're supposed to be better than the average Virginian. We're supposed to be role models for good behavior and safe practices. Without each and every one of us taking this to heart and adhering to this mantra, we – as an Agency – are no better than those among us who fail to do what is right and safe. We're better than that. Let's all prove it every day.

Carl Harrison
State Forester

TEACHING TOOL ABOUT HIGHGRADING

Submitted by Denny McCarthy, assistant regional forester, Region 5

I had a neat conversation with Brad Wireman, technician in the Lancaster County area. We were talking about the "art" of highgrading hardwood timberlands. In the process, Brad shared a technique he's apparently used before to make the point with landowners, or whomever the audience might be, regarding the negative impacts of highgrading – both financially and physically – on the forest.

Brad proceeded to explain that he'd like to have a pocket full of loose change. Ideally an equal number of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. To be practical, let's say five of each. That's about \$2.05, right? (10 of each comes out to \$4.10 and around my house, that's buying snacks for a van load of kids tonight). Perhaps you'd do this right off the start, before spending much time talking about hardwood silviculture. When

ready to spring your trap on the audience, you proceed to throw the change down on a table top in random fashion. You then ask one member of your audience to take any 10 coins he/she so chooses with the anticipation of keeping all of the coins for themselves. Be careful how you set this up or you might be out of \$2.05. You can't expense this, I know!

Obviously, any right-minded individual will take the quarters and dimes, leaving only the nickels and pennies for you to work with, thus leading into all of the common points and analogies regarding highgrading, i.e. "leaving some of the trees," taking the best – leaving the rest, perpetuating a poorer quality forest (species composition, form, quality, genetics), economic impacts, etc.

I did this a couple nights later with a men's garden club here in Salem and it worked out great. The ease with which the decision was made to take the most valuable coins was immediately apparent to all and perhaps helped to make

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Landowner

WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

Submitted by Chad Austin, technician, Region 6, Carroll and Grayson counties

Seventy landowners in the Grayson and Carroll counties area attended a 3½-hour “Successful Timber Selling” workshop March 15. The workshop was held in the new Matthews State Forest Office and Educational Center. The workshop was organized by Chad Austin, technician, in cooperation with the local Virginia Tech Extension Services.

The workshop was a great success, and, after a huge meal from The Galax Smokehouse, participants were educated on techniques to maximize benefits from timber sales. Topics discussed during the workshop were:

- ◆ Preharvest Planning
- ◆ Timber Selling Contracts and Sale Types
- ◆ Silvicultural Water Quality Laws and Best Management Practices
- ◆ Economic Benefits of Planting White Pine
- ◆ Reforestation Related to Timber Sales
- ◆ Riparian Buffer Tax Credit Program, Cost-Share Programs and Practices



Landowners were enthusiastic about the topics covered, and questions sparked several good discussions. Many were intrigued enough to schedule appointments for further consultation from the local forester and technicians. Hopefully, educational sessions like this one will help everyone involved in a timber sale avoid some of the possible pitfalls.

Special thanks to all those who participated. This workshop was made possible by many organizations and people working together. These include VDOF staff Matt Poirot, Chad Austin, Brad Carico, David Edwards, Donnie Garman and David Richert; Virginia Tech Extension Services staff Bill Worrell and Kevin Spurlin; The Galax Smokehouse, and the Carroll County and Grayson County Extension offices.

TEACHING TOOL ABOUT HIGHGRADING, CONTINUED

everyone a little more accountable for such decisions in the real world.

The challenge: scraping up enough coins to make the exercise work. The value: there are few ways or opportunities to capture the attention of an audience and hold them accountable for daily decision making without creating a confrontational environment. Perhaps this technique might come in handy for those of you who find yourselves constantly in a position to defend clearcutting, traditional rural forestry practices, or needing to sell a landowner on the idea of proper forest management. If nothing else, your audience will leave with a clearer understanding of the practice of highgrading or selective harvesting (too many continue to use this term in my opinion), and perhaps be a little more leery of the “knock on the door” timber purchase proposition.

Thanks, Brad, for an excellent teaching tool. I think we’ll all be able to employ it often, in and out of the workplace. You certainly can’t buy much for \$2.05 any more, but you can make a tremendous impact with it!

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY AND VDOF FORM PARTNERSHIP

Submitted by Bill Miller, assistant regional forester, Region 6

As the recruitment of woodland firefighters becomes increasingly difficult, the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) must look for help in nontraditional areas. Recently, Chris Owens, Dickenson County technician, and Steve Counts, regional resource specialist, approached Maj. Johnny Billiter at the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail about using inmates at the new regional jail in Haysi, VA. Major Billiter thought the partnership would be an excellent opportunity to not only assist the VDOF, but to also instill a sense of community service in the inmates.

After State Forester Carl Garrison and Lee Noble, Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority superintendent, signed the cooperative agreement, Chris and Steve trained the inmates at the Haysi facility to meet the firefighter standards VDOF has in place. The inmates were also required to pass the moderate work capacity test to work on the fire line.

The inmates are authorized by the Regional Jail Authority to work in Buchanan, Dickenson and Russell counties. Each inmate crew will be accompanied by a guard, who was also required to receive firefighter training and pass the moderate work capacity test. Fortunately, many of the guards at the jail were already part-time firefighters who regularly assist Chris.

The goal of Major Billiter at the Haysi Jail Facility is to have the inmate crew in the van responding to fires within 20 minutes. Major Billiter contacted Chris and they decided a mock exercise would be useful before the crew responded to an actual fire.

On February 23, 2007, a mock exercise was conducted without either the guard or the inmates knowing. Chris determined a site to which to dispatch the inmates. The inmate crew was able to respond to the site, which was about 15 miles from the jail, in 50 minutes. Once on scene,

Chris gave the inmates some additional hands-on training by having them construct a fire line.

The inmates have become a very valuable asset to VDOF by helping Chris and David Tolliver, Buchanan County technician, over the course of this spring fire season. The inmates have been used on numerous forest fires and have performed impeccably.

Seeking out new sources for firefighters is imperative to provide the resources we need to combat fires in the challenging mountainous terrain in the coalfields of Virginia. Hopefully, the partnership we have formed with the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority will be the model we use at other correctional facilities in Southwest Virginia and across the state.

Chris Owens (standing, far right) and Bill Miller (kneeling, far right) pose with the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail crew.



Inmates at the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail construct a fire line during a mock fire exercise.



Employee

SPOTLIGHT

GREG ESTOLL

Submitted by David Tolliver, technician, Region 6, Buchanan County

Greg Estoll is the new forester for Buchanan and Tazewell counties in Region 6. Since his arrival in August of 2006, Greg has experienced the full circle of work duties in the counties he covers. He has been closely involved with forest management and timber harvest inspections along with primary fire response in Tazewell County. He has also worked fire in Buchanan County on several fires.

Greg graduated from the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, with a bachelor's in forestry and received his master's in forest resources from the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID. Prior to coming to the Virginia Department of Forestry, Greg worked for Pyramid Mountain Lumber at Seeley Lake, MT; Colorado State Forest Service as a forester, and at Vermejo Park Ranch in New Mexico.

Greg is married and has three children ages 6, 4 and 1½ and is expecting a new addition to his family in July. His hobbies are camping, hiking, woodworking and gardening.



LEWIS E. (L.E.) RHODES

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

We've recently had another change here at the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF). Moving into the position of Albemarle County technician is Lewis E. Rhodes. A native of Albemarle County, L.E. has been married to Sherry Rhodes for 28 years, having three grown children, Lee, Danielle and Jarred. Having attended Scottsville Baptist Church all his life, L.E. now serves there as a deacon.

L.E. has been with the Virginia Department of Forestry for 17 years at the Central Office shop and is no stranger to fire. He ran fires with Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department for years. He volunteered for western assignments in Texas, Oklahoma and Montana during some of their peak fire seasons. When L.E. is not working for the VDOF, he is thinking about fishing somewhere. He is an Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide for smallmouth bass on the James and Shenandoah rivers and for trout in the Blue Ridge Mountain area; he also works part-time with the Orvis Fly Fishing School at Wintergreen. It might be safe to say fishing is in L.E.'s blood.

L.E. is well suited to meet Albemarle and Central Virginia's forestry and wildfire needs in his new role. Also, since fishing is in his blood, beware of those fish stories about the ones that got away!



MATT KIMBLER

Submitted by Bill Miller, assistant regional forester, Region 6

Matt Kimbler, a native of Fort Blackmore, VA, is the newest addition to Region 6 as the technician for Scott County. Matt is a 1997 graduate of Gate City High School and obtained his bachelor of science degree in Environmental Science from The University of Virginia's College at Wise in 2002. While Matt was in college, he worked for the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division of Mineral Resources. He also completed an internship with DMME's Division of Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation. Prior to coming to work for the Department of Forestry, Matt worked in Narrows and Prince George County for Virginia Sealing Products, and he worked in the construction field as well.

Matt enjoys hunting, fishing, backpacking, farming and guitar and banjo playing. Matt looks forward to working with Scott County landowners and fighting wildfire.



Spring is in

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: THIRD-GRADERS PLANT TREES TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

Nearly 8,000 third-grade students in the Richmond region planted trees to celebrate Arbor Day as part of Project Plant It!, a Dominion-sponsored environmental education program.

Created as a pilot program by Dominion, the state's largest energy provider, for third-grade students in Chesterfield, Henrico and Richmond City schools, Project Plant It! was designed to educate children, plant trees and improve the environment. Project Plant It! included interactive and engaging educational materials for third-graders, the opportunity for each child to plant a tree of his or her own, and a dedicated Web site, www.ProjectPlantIt.com, supporting the program.

"Project Plant It! allowed our children to learn the value of trees and our environment," said Eva S. Hardy, Dominion executive vice president, External Affairs & Corporate Communications.

Students learned the value of trees including how they help to moderate climates, improve air quality, absorb carbon, harbor wildlife, prevent soil erosion and reduce heating and cooling costs.

Virginia Department of Forestry experts estimate if all 8,000 blue spruce seedlings were planted, at maturity that would be equivalent to more than 13 acres of new forest land.

For more information on Project Plant It!, including copies of teaching materials, visit www.ProjectPlantIt.com.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MID-ATLANTIC GARDEN FAIRE

Submitted by David Richert, RC&D forester, Region 6

For the past several years, Virginia Department of Forestry's Region 6 has displayed forest management information at the 2007 Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire in Abingdon. The Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire attracts garden and landscaping enthusiasts from several states, including Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. This year's Garden Faire was another successful event. During the three-day event, VDOF staff made contact with approximately 1,000 Virginia homeowners. These homeowners received wildland fire prevention materials, forest management advice and some took home seedlings – black oak and Norway spruce – from the VDOF nursery. Many of the residents were specifically interested in urban and community forest management—folks who tend their backyard forests for their "garden" qualities.

As a new feature for this year's Garden Faire, the New River-Highlands RC&D Council and the Virginia Department of Forestry partnered to create a scale model rain garden exhibit. The scale model is made up of two aquariums—one (on the left) that represents conventional landscaping, the other (on the right) demonstrates a rain garden. Both have similar slope (10%) and compaction, but on one, a portion of the soil was amended and subtle changes in the grading were made to improve percolation and absorption.

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Full Swing

2007 ARBOR DAY IN COAL MINE COUNTRY

Submitted by Lawrence Tankersley, forester, Dickenson, Lee and Wise counties

More than 170 secondary school students from Wise and Dickenson counties celebrated Arbor Day April 13, 2007 by planting trees on mined land adjacent to the Powell River Project (PRP) Research and Education Center in Wise County. The tree planting took place on an abandoned mine land project that is being reclaimed through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) and Red River Coal Company. The students planted more than 1,500 trees, including oaks, ash, eastern white pine and blight-resistant American chestnuts.

Students were introduced to the latest research on establishing forests on reclaimed mined lands from officials from Virginia Tech, DMME and the VDOF. High schools participating in the project included Powell Valley, Appalachia, J.J. Kelly, Pound, Coeburn, St. Paul and Clintwood.

The Arbor Day celebration is an event of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), a partnership to promote reforestation on permitted coal mines and abandoned coal mine sites. Sponsors of the event included the DMME, the federal Office of Surface Mining, the VDOF, and Virginia Tech's Powell River Project. Bo Willis, director of DMME, said, "In addition to being an enjoyable outdoor experience for the students, Arbor Day activities also emphasize Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs). Sponsors gave presentations that directly relate to secondary school SOLs for biology and earth science. We hope that Arbor Day activities will encourage the students to consider a career in natural resources management.

"Over 80 percent of Virginia's coal mine land is reclaimed to a post-mining land use of forest," Willis said. "To ensure that current and future generations realize the environmental and economic benefits of reforestation, it is important that agencies promote the ARRI to the industry and those who will follow us."

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MID-ATLANTIC GARDEN FAIRE, CONTINUED

Although this scale model is a dramatically simplified version of an actual rain garden, this scale model demonstrates how rain gardens benefit water quality, and how conventional landscaping designs may not fully address the water quality impacts from storm water runoff. A variety of technical materials were also exhibited, to explain the importance of rain gardens and riparian buffers in maintaining water quality, especially in residential and urban settings. Based on the comments from homeowners and environmental educators who observed the exhibit, this display will help inspire landowners to consider storm water runoff in their residential or urban landscaping.



Landowner's Forest

OBJECTIVE TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT

CHARLES CITY COUNTY... GERMAN STYLE

*Submitted by Will Shoup, forester, Region 2,
New Kent and Charles City counties*



What if I told you that this year in my little part of Virginia, I planted Douglas Fir. Most of you would think that I was working with a landowner to get a possible Christmas Tree Farm started. But, what if I added the fact that the landowner lives in Germany and visits his properties in the U.S. once or twice a year and the Doug Fir was planted in a cut over area on his property?

Hmmmm, what's this? The landowner set up an appointment with me last year to meet on his property to discuss different projects and ideas that he has about his forest land. When we got together, it was my first time meeting with him. I was prepared with ideas about commercially thinning his pine plantations or performing crop tree release on some of his hardwood stands. During our walking and talking on the property, the landowner and some of his family members that were there started discussing something... in German. So I patiently stood there thinking I'll wait until they are done and then we can move on to something else.

Well, they looked over at me and suggested that I pick out a five-acre plot somewhere on the property where their timber was being cut and plant Douglas Fir. They wanted to bring a little piece of Germany into Charles City, VA. They told me how beautiful the Fir forests of Germany are and that they would like to try it out. My first thought was, "this will never work." Here in Charles City county, we are in pine country, NOT Doug Fir country. After talking with the landowner and trying to get across that the Doug Fir probably would not survive here due to the heat and humidity that eastern Virginia has to offer, he was still set on giving it a try.

So, I started calling nurseries up and down the eastern coast trying to find enough Doug Fir seedlings to cover five acres of planting. Oh, did I mention that the Doug Fir was planted at 484/acre, so I needed about 2,500 seedlings to complete the job. I completely struck out on the east coast, so I turned to the west coast. I found out that Lawyer Nursery out of Washington state could supply and deliver on time the quantity of bare root seedlings for the landowner.

At the end of February, the order came in to the New Kent Forestry Center – four large boxes. After some cajoling and other begging methods, I got a few volunteers from Region 2 to come down for a day and plant. Once we got started with the project, everything went smoothly. The seedlings were a little bit larger than the loblolly seedlings that we produce, but otherwise the same dibble bar planting method was used to place the seedlings in the ground. It took 10 volunteers (myself included), three hours to complete the project. Superior Forestry planting crews would have had a good laugh watching us out there trying to keep 9 foot by 10 foot spacing on our trees. Not too mention there were a few of us who were taking frequent rest breaks (myself included).

All in all, the landowner was very happy with the job that we did for him. I sent him a few pictures of the Doug Fir planted area, and he loves it. Something that I got out of this project is that the landowner isn't always right or wrong with projects that he or she would like to do. But the forester working with that landowner should keep an open mind and be willing to think outside the box every once in a while. When we get through the summer and into fall this year, I plan on going back to the Doug Fir and seeing how things turned out. I'll drop a line to the Forestry News and let you know how things look.

IFRIS GOES OUTDOORS

Submitted by Dave Nabers, GIS analyst, Resource Information Division

By now most Department of Forestry (VDOF) employees are familiar with entering their time, leave and accomplishments into the Web-based version of IFRIS. Many are also familiar with mapping in IFRIS. But IFRIS has a major limitation; you must be in front of a personal computer to use it, while much of our work takes place outdoors. This situation will be corrected in the near future; IFRIS is going mobile!

That's right. Beginning in the spring of 2008, IFRIS will be coming to a GPS-enabled mobile data recorder near you! VDOF has invested in a number of Trimble GeoXM data recorders with built in GPS, and specially designed components of IFRIS will be installed on them; the new software system will be known as IFRIS Mobile. IFRIS Mobile represents the second phase of development of the IFRIS system – the Web-based IFRIS being Phase 1.

IFRIS Mobile will provide field employees with several tools that will help them in their work, as well as reduce the amount of time they must spend in the office. These tools include time and leave entry, a mobile navigation tool to help get around, feature mapping, forest health observation, wildfire incident reporting and water quality. In each of these components, information gathered in the field can be uploaded into the main IFRIS program, automatically saving time worked, accomplishments performed and valuable management data.

FOREST HEALTH OBSERVATION

The Forest Health Observation (FHO) tools will greatly improve VDOF's ability to monitor and assess threats to forest health and have already been successfully tested in a pilot program by VDOF personnel. The pilot group's suggestions are being used to improve the software before deployment.

The FHO system makes it possible for field employees to capture the necessary data for insect, disease or other factors that are adversely affecting forest health. Some of the information captured is GPS location (recorded automatically), type of forest health problem (e.g., Southern Pine Beetle, Rust, etc.), tree species impacted, and whether or not a follow-up examination is needed. In common with the other IFRIS Mobile components, when the field employee returns to the office, the forest health observations are uploaded into IFRIS, reports generated, time and accomplishments recorded and, if needed, an email automatically sent to the appropriate person for conducting follow-up.

WATER QUALITY

Protecting Virginia's water quality is an important VDOF duty, but we have not had the tools needed to efficiently record and manage the large number of water quality inspections we perform. In the past, information was repeatedly keyed in to multiple spreadsheets; an inefficient and error-prone process. Moreover, a lack of geographic location and unique logger identification hampered monitoring compliance.

Working with VDOF water quality personnel and representatives of the logging industry, a new component was developed for deployment on IFRIS Mobile. This component will expedite recording the locations of harvest operations, logger identification and the type of water quality violation (if one occurs). Tracking follow-up inspections will be much easier, as will documenting water quality violations and law enforcement actions.

WILDFIRE INCIDENT REPORTING

Preventing and suppressing wildfire is one of VDOF's most critical roles. At present, Wildfire Incident Reporting is done on paper forms. This can lead to significant delays in paying part-time employees and paying full-time employees overtime that is earned. In addition, providing interested parties with timely information on fire status and suppression efforts can be greatly enhanced



by collecting and sharing information electronically. The benefits of using the IFRIS Mobile Wildfire Incident Reporting tools will be especially great during heavy fire seasons.

IFRIS MOBILE HELPS KEEP VDOF NO. 1

The Web-based version of IFRIS is a cutting-edge program, enabling the Virginia Department of Forestry to lead the way among state forestry agencies in using technology to provide better service, improved resource management and greater cost effectiveness. IFRIS is generating a great deal of interest in the forestry and natural resource management agencies of other states and even internationally. Our forestry professionals are already "Best in Class," and IFRIS Mobile will give them more tools to help keep the Virginia Department of Forestry "Number One."

Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

Neil Brooks is our new Franklin County technician in Region 5. He has a bachelor's in forest resource management from Virginia Tech and is coming to us from Caron Construction.

Matthew Spencer is our new regional technician for Region 5. He has an associate's in forestry from Dabney Lancaster and is coming to us from High Country Forest Products.

Matt Kimbler is our new Scott County technician in Region 6. He has a bachelor's in environmental science from the University of Virginia College at Wise. He comes to us from Kimbler and Sons Contractors.

Steve McElhaney is the new Bedford County technician in Region 5. Steve is finishing his associate's in forestry from Dabney Lancaster. He worked for us last summer as the Region 3 intern.

Robbie Talbert is the new assistant regional forester in Region 3. He has his bachelor's in forestry from Virginia Tech. For the past seven years, he has worked for the North Carolina Division of Forestry, most recently as a district forester.

Sara Shullaw is our new GIS program manager at Central Office. She has her bachelor's in environmental science from the University of Virginia and her master's in geography from Virginia Tech. She comes to us from SNL Financial where she managed Web mapping applications. Sara previously worked for us part-time in Resource Protection.

Donald Unmussig is our new general services director at Central Office. Don is completing his bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies at the University of Virginia. He comes to us from the Department of General Services where he served as the director of fleet management for the state. Several years ago, Don served in the Virginia National Guard. While there, he was a helicopter pilot and assisted VDOF with firefighting from the air.

Steve Coleman is our new Brunswick County technician in Region 1. Steve was formerly the Greensville County technician in Region 1 for 12 years. We are glad he has decided to return.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Nelson Hillyer, technician for Essex County in Region 2, has been promoted to water quality specialist for Region 2.

Rob Farrell, forester for Gloucester County in Region 2, is our new assistant director for forest land conservation in Central Office.

Terry Lasher, Fauquier County forester in Region 3, has been promoted to the position of assistant regional forester for Region 3 and will continue working out of the Warrenton office.

Todd Kready, forester for Middlesex County in Region 2, transferred to the position of forester for Bedford County in Region 5.

Buck Kline, regional forester for Region 3, has agreed to manage a special grant-funded project relating to ecosystem services. While he is doing that, **David Powell**, assistant regional forester for Region 3, is serving as acting regional forester. David will serve in this capacity until Jan. 9, 2008. Thank you, Buck, for taking on this project, and thank you, David, for agreeing to serve as acting regional forester.

Erik Filep, technician for Louisa County in Region 3, has been promoted to forester for Orange County in Region 3.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

Greg Meade, assistant regional forester for Region 3, accepted a position with The Nature Conservancy in Abingdon.

Hylton Haynes, water quality engineer for Region 1, accepted a position with the Department of Military Affairs at Fort Pickett as a forestry supervisor.

Bob Kennedy, Bedford County forester in Region 5, retires June 1.

Carolyn Morris, program support technician in Region 4, retired May 1.

Sam Barkley, forester for Goochland County in Region 3, retires June 30.

Phil Crigger, accounting manager for Fiscal at Central Office, accepted the position of treasurer for the UVA Law School Foundation.

Matt Jedra, forester for Southampton County in Region 1, accepted a position with the Colorado State Forest Service.

Kyla Sabo, FIA specialist for Region 1, resigned and is relocating to Colorado.

Dean Smith, technician for Goochland County in Region 3, is leaving VDOF and moving to Wyoming.

Pres Trower, technician for Accomack County in Region 1, retires June 30.

Larry Willis, technician for Isle of Wight in Region 1, retires June 30.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Joe Street, senior programmer analyst at Central Office, married his sweetheart, Noël, on April 21.

Jessica Parker (now Carroll), fiscal technician at Central Office, married Jason Carroll on April 28.

Donna Hoy, State Forester administrative assistant, became a first-time grandma. Jason Wade was born April 28.

Edwina Blalock, programmer/analyst at Central Office, is a grandma again. Levi Edwin Vance Griffin was born May 3, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces.

Jason Braunstein, GIS technician in Resource Information at Central Office, and his wife, Heather, welcomed a new daughter into their family March 15. Lucy Carlyle Braunstein weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces.

Richard Miles, retired technician for Bedford County in Region 5, has a new granddaughter. Richard's daughter, Melonie, gave birth to Lacy Craig on March 12, weighing 9 pounds, 1 ounce.

Jason Upton, regional technician for Region 1, and his wife, Jessica, welcomed a son! Jackson Hunter Upton was born March 29 weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces.

Keith Brown, radio technician in Communications at Central Office, is a daddy again, and **Alan Craft**, technician in Alleghany County in Region 5, is a grandpa again! Carson Patrick Brown was born February 16, weighing 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

Congratulations to Chris Stoots, son of **Ed Stoots**, regional forester in Region 6, who was awarded the Robert Goldsmith Memorial Scholarship and was inducted into the Sigma Mu Honor Society at the Emory & Henry College Awards ceremony. Chris is a rising

senior at Emory & Henry with a double major in English and education hoping to teach high school English when he completes his degrees next year. Chris has also been on the Dean's list with a 3.8 grade point average and receives a Dean's Scholarship from the College.

CONDOLENCES

Angela Conary, program support technician for Region 1, lost her step-father, William Ernest Lewis, who passed away in Elizabeth City, NC, in February.

Eddie Embrey, technician for Nelson County in Region 3, lost his young grandson, Caleb Embrey Ramsey, who passed away February 6. Our thoughts and prayers are with Eddie and his family. Eddie's mother-in-law also passed away in February.

Barbara Worrell, retired State Forester's administrative assistant, lost her husband in April. "Buddy" was doing what he loved – playing golf – when he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was just days away from his 73rd birthday. He and Barbara have two children, Ricky Worrell and Karen Wiggington.

Dave Jones, technician for Wythe County in Region 6, lost his father-in-law, Andrew Viars, in April.

Pauline Lucas died in March of leukemia at age 67. Pauline retired from Augusta Forestry Center in 2003 after more than 30 years of being a part-time and full-time employee. Pauline is survived by six children.

J.B. Jarratt, retired from Region 1, on the tragic loss of his brother, Horace. Horace, age 66, was serving as a Motorist Assistant for the Virginia State Police in Colonial Heights when he was struck by a vehicle on I-95.



FAREWELL!

Submitted by Dean Smith, technician, Region 3, Goochland County

Sam and I wish to say so long to each other and our friends with VDOF. We both will miss all the fun we have had. I would like to invite anyone who is heading out west to look me up in Wyoming. I will be starting up a small company in home inspections and flipping real estate. The white water raft will be ready and can take six people down the rivers in the summer. Check out peaceofmindhomeinspections.net or look me up in the Laramie yellow pages. You all come visit.

Sam is staying in Goochland County and will be buying large tracts of forest land and splitting it up into smaller lots – doing his best to conserve the forest land base !!! No, you all should know better than to believe that. Seriously though, we will miss everyone and won't forget all the good times and the bad. Best wishes to all!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Susan P. Tennant ~ July 3 (R4)
 Brad A. Wireman ~ July 5 (R2)
 Donald J. Giegerich ~ July 6 (R4)
 Robert W. Farrell ~ July 7 (R2)
 Kevin W. Keith ~ July 8 (R5)
 Joshua D. McLaughlin ~ July 9 (AG)
 William B. Hall ~ July 11 (R4)
 A. Kenneth Thomas ~ July 13 (R6)
 Stephen L. Morris ~ July 13 (R4)
 David K. Schnake ~ July 14 (R4)
 James W. Jarvis ~ July 15 (R4)
 Dennis C. Gaston ~ July 15 (R2)
 Paul B. Geyer ~ July 15 (RET)
 William W. Shumaker ~ July 17 (SF)
 Michael T. Salyer ~ July 19 (R6)
 Christopher Sullivan ~ July 20 (R6)
 David E. Jones ~ July 20 (R6)
 John A. Scrivani ~ July 20 (CO)

Junius Miles ~ July 21 (SF)
 Anne M. Skalski ~ July 22 (CO)
 James M. McGlone ~ July 23 (R3)
 Vance A. Blick ~ July 24 (GG)
 D. Drew Arnn ~ July 25 (R5)
 Philip N. Carpenter ~ July 25 (CO)
 Tammy C. Ingle ~ July 26 (SF)
 Nelson D. Jarvis ~ July 27 (R2)
 Sandra G. Mills ~ July 28 (R3)
 Christopher Thomsen ~ July 30 (R5)
 Joseph D. Rossetti ~ Aug. 3 (R1)
 John R. Robinson ~ Aug. 6 (R1)
 Charlie M. Yopp ~ Aug. 6 (R5)
 Jimmy R. Steele ~ Aug. 6 (RET)
 Leonard L. Tennant ~ Aug. 10 (RET)
 Jerry W. Bailey ~ Aug. 10 (R2)
 Wanda H. Colvin ~ Aug. 12 (CO)
 J. Miller Adams ~ Aug. 12 (R4)
 J. Richard Inge ~ Aug. 13 (RET)
 Dennis R. McCarthy ~ Aug. 14 (R5)
 Larry W. Estes ~ Aug. 15 (AG)

John E. Seaquist ~ Aug. 16 (RET)
 Charles L. Rammell ~ Aug. 18 (RET)
 Donald L. Hixson ~ Aug. 20 (RET)
 Heather E. Manson ~ Aug. 20 (R1)
 Scott G. Bachman ~ Aug. 21 (R1)
 Kathy F. Frazier ~ Aug. 22 (RET)
 E. Pickett Upshaw ~ Aug. 23 (R2)
 Andrew C. Brown ~ Aug. 25 (R4)
 Bradley W. Williams ~ Aug. 26 (CO)
 Thomas A. Snoddy ~ Aug. 26 (R2)
 Peter E. O'Brien ~ Aug. 27 (RET)
 C. Cody Daniels ~ Aug. 27 (R1)
 Warren E. Coburn ~ Aug. 28 (R2)
 Daniel W. Johnson ~ Aug. 31 (RET)
 Avond M. Randolph ~ Sept. 1 (SF)
 Angela L. Conary ~ Sept. 2 (R1)
 Michael A. Santucci ~ Sept. 3 (R3)
 Earl "Bobby" Atkins ~ Sept. 4 (RET)
 Thomas L. Frazier ~ Sept. 5 (AG)
 William B. Neff ~ Sept. 5 (R6)
 David E. Bruce ~ Sept. 6 (CO)

James E. Bowen ~ Sept. 7 (RET)
 Charlene O. Bardon ~ Sept. 7 (R4)
 Judith A. Okay ~ Sept. 8 (CO)
 Alton L. Dean ~ Sept. 9 (AG)
 Randy A. Short ~ Sept. 9 (R6)
 Larry J. Cochran ~ Sept. 12 (CO)
 Calvin E. Ricks ~ Sept. 12 (RET)
 H. Gwynn Tyler ~ Sept. 14 (R4)
 Antonia Noreika ~ Sept. 14 (R1)
 Anna K. Cahoon ~ Sept. 16 (R1)
 Donald G. Drake ~ Sept. 16 (RET)
 Charles H. Knoeller ~ Sept. 16 (R2)
 Carrington Newsome ~ Sept. 16 (R2)
 Dirk D. Hillegass ~ Sept. 20 (R5)
 Benjamin S. Parsons ~ Sept. 21 (R5)
 W. Alex Williamson ~ Sept. 21 (R4)
 Robert K. Boeren ~ Sept. 21 (R5)
 Joseph W. Schaefer ~ Sept. 23 (CO)
 Herbert M. Reynolds ~ Sept. 26 (R3)

Mail Bag

April 12, 2007

Dear Mr. Ed Stoots,

I would like to take this opportunity to highly commend two of your foresters. Mr. Donald Garman and Mr. Chad Austin who serve as a part of their responsibilities the Grayson County area.

During February - March of this year, they took the initiative to sponsor and conduct the Master Tree Farmer Mini-series Preparing for the Next Owner. I found this series of classes to be very informative and timely. This is a topic that I am currently working on, which is a plan to pass my real estate to my heirs. Their efforts were most appreciated.

During the first quarter of last year, Mr. Austin was very helpful with excellent advice in dealing with the logging company who purchased and harvested timber on part of my farm. His assistance significantly contributed in the reduction of potential erosion problems.

Later during the year, Mr. Garman gave me outstanding advice regarding the reseeded of timber land recently cut and for other areas of the farm that I wanted to return to growing trees. He completed excellent planning and keeping me informed when the seedlings would be required to coincide with the tree planting team that he brought in to complete the planting project. Mr. Garman and Mr. Austin were present during the actual tree planting to make sure that the project was performed correctly.

In summary, the Virginia Department of Forestry should feel very fortunate to have professional employees of the high caliber of Mr. Garman and Mr. Austin. I specifically thank them for their initiative and high quality of work in serving Grayson County citizens.

Sincerely, Carl A. Cox, Independence, Virginia

Contacts AND INFORMATION

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

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

The deadlines are as follows:


Fall Issue -- August 1, 2007

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2007

Spring Issue -- February 1, 2008

Summer Issue -- May 1, 2008

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please notify of address corrections