



FORESTRY News

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

MISSION:

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

PROJECT LEARNING TREE - SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOMIZED WORKSHOPS

Submitted by Lisa Deaton, forest education specialist, Public Information Division

We often think of Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshops as a day of leading elementary teachers through a wide variety of hands-on activities about trees and forests. Indeed, the majority of workshops in Virginia do focus on enhancing elementary science education. However, our PLT facilitators often customize workshops to meet specific needs of a school or community.

Our PLT workshops for middle and high school teachers are often centered around a specific topic. For example, high school teachers in Loudoun County visited local forest fires with Gerald Crowell in August 2006, and learned how to teach about fire ecology with PLT activities. In November 2007, Virginia PLT provided a day-long field trip to the New Kent Forestry Center for the Virginia Association of Science Teachers Conference. There, teachers learned about the tree improvement program, longleaf research and American chestnut research from Ones Bitoki and Billy Apperson. Participants at both of these workshops learned how to use three PLT secondary modules – The Changing Forest: Forest Ecology; Focus on Forests, and Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live.

Other PLT workshops are part of larger institutes for teachers. At Holiday Lake Forestry Camp, teachers participate in PLT activities with the campers as they spend a week learning about forest management principles. For the past three years, teachers have learned how to use PLT's Forest Ecology module at the Mountain Watershed Academy, coordinated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation at Douthat State Park, and the Watershed Academy offered by the Smithsonian Zoo and Capital Region Earth Force in Northern Virginia. The

Department of Environmental Quality has included PLT's Energy and Society Kit in several Sixth Grade Science Standard Institutes and taken teachers on occasional tours of Dominion power plants. In June 2007, Jon Rockett and Bill Worrell worked with the Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters to provide teachers a "Trees to Products" program, which also included PLT instruction. Jeff Kirwan and John McGee at the Virginia



Arlington teachers use "To Be A Tree" PLT activities.



Teachers learn fire ecology with Gerald Crowell while out visiting local forest fire sites.

**Carl Garrison,
State Forester**

**Janet Muncy,
Editor**

Virginia
Department of Forestry
900 Natural Resources Dr.
Suite 800
Charlottesville, VA 22903
Phone: (434) 977-6555
Fax: (434) 296-2369
www.dof.virginia.gov

continued on page 2

Message

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



As I write to you today, we are near the midway point in the 2008 General Assembly session and several pieces of legislation of interest to us have made great progress thus far. First, Sen. John Watkins' bill (SB-367S1) unanimously passed the Senate and was forwarded to the House of Delegates. This bill would enable full-time VDOF employees to earn additional credit towards retirement when they are actively engaged in wildland fire suppression efforts. Over the course of a career, an employee could earn enough credits to be able to retire after 25 years of service instead of the current 30 years. If this bill becomes a law, it would be a tremendous benefit for those who risk their lives to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth. We are most grateful to Senator Watkins and to Senators Emmet Hanger and Thomas Norment for their leadership in this regard.

A second piece of legislation would increase the fee counties pay for wildland fire suppression. For the past 20 years, counties have paid 5 cents per acre for each acre of forest land in their jurisdiction. This fee has not changed. Of course, the costs of fire suppression services, equipment, etc., have risen significantly during that timeframe. For example, inflation has increased more than 77 percent since 1988. Del. Watkins Abitt introduced a bill to adjust this fee to 7 cents per acre in the first year of the next fiscal year and to 9 cents per acre in the second year of the biennium. The good people at the Virginia Association of Counties – who represent the interests of county governments in the General Assembly – have given their support to this bill. We hope for a favorable review in the House and Senate, and we appreciate Delegate Abitt's leadership.

As you know, the state's budget picture is looking bleak. We've already dealt with a 5 percent reduction and, as we predicted, more cuts are coming in the current fiscal year. While we haven't received a "target number" for another reduction, we are working feverishly to deal with several potential scenarios so that we can prevent as much pain as possible. But please understand, since we are already operating on a bare-bones budget, any cuts that have to be made will cause some pain that we will all feel.

The last bit of news I wish to share with you involves the Virginia Forest Products Association. This February, the VFPA is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its founding, and I'm pleased to be sending them our best wishes and congratulations. Since Feb. 15, 1958, the VFPA has been the voice of the lumber and wood products industry in Virginia. The organization's members and leaders have been tireless advocates for this vital sector of our economy. I have the honor of presenting the VFPA with a plaque to honor the occasion of the organization's 50th Anniversary on behalf of all VDOF employees, and Gov. Tim Kaine has issued a proclamation to commemorate the achievement. The VFPA is a real partner in our effort to keep forestry and the forest industry a Virginia tradition. Congratulations to the VFPA on reaching this milestone, and best wishes for the next 50 years!

Carl Harrison

Project Learning Tree, continued from page 1

Tech College of Natural Resources have worked with several school divisions in the state to provide trainings focused on using GPS units and GIS to study changes in land cover within a watershed. They have archived many historical aerial photographs of Virginia high school locations at www.watersheded.org to assist with activities in the Places We Live module.

Some PLT workshops focus on the needs of one particular school. Our 2006 Virginia PLT Outstanding Educator, Kari Abbott, has trained 1st and 3rd grade teachers at D.J. Montague Elementary in Williamsburg by leading PLT activities with them at school. The PLT training and materials were part of a larger "meaningful watershed educational experience" that took

continued on page 8



Catherine Estes and Jackie Stallard from the American Forest Foundation led a workshop in December 2007 for an Islamic school in Herndon.

BUCHANAN BECOMES A TREE CITY USA

Submitted by Bob Boeren, forester, Botetourt, Craig and Roanoke counties, Region 5

Bob Boeren presented the Town of Buchanan with the 2007 Mountain Castles SWCD urban forestry award at their annual banquet in November. The Town of Buchanan adopted a tree ordinance in February 2007, formed a tree board, spent over \$2 per capita (or town citizen) on tree care and held an Arbor Day with proclamation in April 2007. The Town of Buchanan will hold its first Tree City USA Arbor Day April 4, 2008 after successfully completing the four standards. Bob's other Tree City USA communities are the City of Roanoke, City of Salem, County of Roanoke and Town of Vinton.



MONTPELIER DEMONSTRATION FOREST

Submitted by Erik Filep, forester, Orange and Culpeper counties, Piedmont Region

Deep in the forests of historic Montpelier, home of President James Madison, plans are underway to produce a valuable forest education resource for both professionals and the general public. Resource professionals from the Department of Forestry, the Montpelier Foundation, Virginia Tech Extension Office and several private foresters are teaming up to create a demonstration forest that will be open to all. The demonstration forest will be approximately 80-100 acres of timberland adjacent to Montpelier's Landmark Old Growth Forest. The demonstration forest is being made possible by a generous private contribution; a grant from the Ballyshannon Foundation, and cost-share funding through EQIP. The object of the demonstration forest is to provide users with visual management guides that can be used on a variety of different forest types and sizes. A recreational trail will guide users throughout the mixed hardwood stands. The team hopes to be able to demonstrate: effective single tree selection; crop tree release; hardwood regeneration; deer control methods; the benefits of prescribed burning; invasive species control; BMPs; restoring a native meadow; creating soft edges for wildlife; shortleaf pine planting; stream crossings; shelterwood cutting, and the effects of poor management techniques that have taken place previously on the property. Being adjacent to the Landmark Old Growth Forest, users will get a chance to compare and contrast management techniques versus an unmanaged climax forest. Research plots located throughout the demonstration forest will serve as valuable data sources to further forest research at Virginia Tech. The team hopes to have most of the forest ready for public use by 2009.

THE LONELY SURVIVOR

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

One is the loneliest number that you ever see...When you are talking about numbers, one is not a good number to associate with tree survival. Some of you may remember last year the story I wrote for the Forestry News about the Douglas Fir project in Charles City County. Well, after doing tree survival reinspections (thanks, Paul) the numbers are in, or should I say the number is in. Survival was not the greatest, to say the least, of my Douglas Fir project. Out of 2,400 seedlings planted, two survived. The rest were taken by magical woodland fairies, or maybe they just didn't survive due to drought conditions, or they were out of their native range, or something like that. I guess the truth will never be revealed, a mystery for future generations. To all the folks who helped me out on this project, I thank you greatly, and to Dave for bringing the Timber Tokens, thanks. I haven't really learned anything from this experience, since I recommended against it from the beginning and I knew it would fail, but I am glad I got to try something different. Because, in the end, it's not what I want or what I know, it's what the landowner wants to try and experiment with that we have to work with sometimes. Just remember, thinking outside the box is a great way to learn new things.



Hunting

A TRADITION IN FORESTRY

DEER HUNTING ASSISTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF NEW KENT NURSERY

*Submitted by Doug Audley, forester, Amelia
County, Region 4*



Over-abundant deer population can cause problems when deer browse on seedlings – three of the five buds eaten off the top of a small white pine seedling.



Harry Winter in his stand. Harry has attended the hunts each year since they began in 1992.

The final deer hunt of the season at the New Kent Forestry Center (NKFC) was held Dec. 29, 2007. This concluded what participants considered to be another successful season, despite the fact that only one deer was killed on the last day.

A recent electronic newsletter briefly describing the hunts at New Kent may have been the first exposure some VDOF employees had to the fact that these hunts take place. I'd like to present a brief (to the best of my knowledge) history of the hunts and finish up with some figures on this year's harvest, as well as some historical data.

In addition to its past use as a nursery, New Kent is also the location of seed orchards and various research projects. One of the limiting factors to the success in planting new seed orchards and grafted trees was damage by an overabundant deer herd – both browsing damage and "horning" damage. While the most effective method of controlling a deer herd is through hunting, this was not an option originally available at New Kent. You see, in the early years, New Kent was also a wildlife preserve where hunting was not permitted. It would take passage of a bill by the General Assembly removing this designation before hunting could be permitted. ¹ (Acts of Assembly, Chapter 504, approved March 22, 1991, amended and reenact of §3 of Chapter 130 of the Acts of Assembly of 1952, as amended by Chapter 288 of the Acts of Assembly of 1954, deleted the prohibition against hunting on the New Kent Forestry Center, and provided approval for the State Forester, with approval of DGIF, to open NKFC to limited hunting during the regular hunting seasons.)

Once this hurdle had been cleared, the Department of Forestry had to decide how the hunts would be conducted. As the leadership addressed this issue, they decided that this may be a way to provide a quality hunting opportunity for disabled hunters. To make the area accessible to disabled hunters, certain accommodations would be required. These were addressed by constructing stands that were accessible by a disabled hunter in a wheelchair. A corresponding "tree stand" for use by an able-bodied assistant was constructed for each wheelchair-accessible stand. Much of the labor and materials used to build these stands was donated.

The first hunts would be conducted in fall of 1992 with VDOF personnel employed at New Kent providing the necessary assistance. Many of these employees were not hunters, which would result in the need for another trip back to the General Assembly so that employees would not be required to purchase hunting licenses just to be able to assist with the hunts. The current hunting regulations have a provision that states, "Any person who is not hunting, but is aiding a disabled person to hunt when such disabled person possesses a valid Virginia Disabled Residence Lifetime hunting license or a Virginia Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime license is not required to have a license," was passed to accommodate the hunts on NKFC.¹

Over time, the number of VDOF personnel employed at the nursery began to dwindle. In addition, archery and muzzleloader hunts were added to the scheduled hunts, providing additional opportunities to the disabled hunters

but also increasing the need for employee assistance. Requests went out for other VDOF employees interested in assisting with the hunts. Employees from across the state responded to these requests and the hunts continued with various VDOF personnel assisting the remaining core of NKFC employees in conducting the various hunts.

When the nursery operations ceased, the remaining nursery employees either retired or moved to new positions within or outside of VDOF. The future of the hunts at NKFC was in question until Virginia Cooperative Extension personnel from New Kent County, Paul Davis and John Yakshe, came forward with new manpower and resources to help keep the hunts going. (Paul and John had led a core of Extension folks and 4-H members who had helped at past hunts by providing lunch and assisting with the hunt for a group from Sheltering Arms Hospital.) Along with the group from Extension, many volunteers – including several hunters who bring dogs for driving deer during the shotgun hunts – have made themselves available to not only keep the hunts going, but to make them successful. The hunts are not only successful, but safe; we have conducted these hunts for 16 years without any firearms incidents or accidents.

Two VDOF employees deserving of special recognition include Donald Hixson and Jeff Stout. Donald retired from NKFC but continues to work most of the hunts each year. He's our "dentist," removing the jawbones, which DGIF uses to age the deer harvested each season. Jeff is a research assistant at New Kent whose work in organizing and conducting the hunts has been invaluable toward their continued success.

With more emphasis now being placed on NKFC as an educational center, it appears that the total number of hunts held each year will be reduced. However, deer damage will remain an issue, so NKFC will continue to provide hunting opportunities on a limited basis to a grateful group of disabled hunters.



¹ Donald Hixson, personal communication

Tim Pollock and Adam Spangler put a tracking collar on one of the beagles before the drives begin.



Hunter assistant, Jeff Stout, in a tree stand.

Deer Harvested 2007 *				
Hunt	Bucks	Does	Button Bucks	Total
11/10/07 Muzzleloader Hunt (open registration)	2	1	1	4
11/17/07 McGuire Veterans Hospital	3	3	3	9
12/01/07 Sheltering Arms Hospital	1	11	3	15
12/15/07	1	4	2	7
12/29/07	1	0	0	1
Total	8	19	9	36

* The Wheelin' Sportsmen muzzleloader hunt of 11/03/07 not included in totals; 3 deer phone checked.

Deer Harvested by Year				
Year	Bucks	Does	Button Bucks	Total
1992	4	18	9	31
1993	1	21	10	32
1994	5	6	4	15
1995	8	9	5	22
1996	1	10	2	13
1997	7	19	9	35
1998	4	17	3	24
1999	3	7	3	13
2000	4	20	7	31
2001	10	12	6	28
2002	6	16	7	29
2003	5	24	5	34
2004	3	5	4	12
2005	15	30	11	56
2006	14	18	6	38
2007	8	19	9	36
Total	98	251	100	449

Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

Shannon Lawrence is our new program support technician in Piedmont Region. She previously served as part-time program support technician in the Resource Protection Division.

Houston Roberts is our new Nelson County technician in Piedmont Region. He received his associate's in forestry technology from Dabney Lancaster Community College. Most recently, he worked for Interforest Corporation.

Mike Aheron is our new Lancaster County technician in Region 2. He has his bachelor's in natural resources conservation from Virginia Tech. Most recently, he worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Owen Burney is our new Prince William County forester in Piedmont Region. He has his bachelor's in forest resources from the University of Georgia and master's in silviculture from Oregon State University. He worked as a research specialist for the Oregon Department of Forestry and also worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Robert Suydam is our new forest conservation specialist in Region 2 and works in Sandston. He has his master's in environmental science and public policy from George Mason University. Robert came to us from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, where he served as the Chesapeake Bay senior planner.

Ken Sterner is our new Middlesex County forester in Region 2. He received his bachelor's in forestry from Virginia Tech. He comes to us from Georgia Carolina Inc. where he worked as a forest technician.

Zachary Olinger is our new forest management and education specialist for the Matthews State Forest. He received his bachelor's in forestry and wildlife from Virginia Tech. He most recently served as an agriculture teacher in Grayson County.

Chris Clayton is our new Culpeper County technician in Piedmont Region. Chris has an associate's in forest technology from Dabney Lancaster Community College. He comes to us from Drumheller Landscaping and has served as a firefighter for several years.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Ben Bradburn, watershed project leader at Central Office, moved into the Montgomery County forester position in Region 5.

Matthew Spencer, regional technician for Region 5, is moving to the Alleghany, Highland and Bath counties technician position effective May 1.

Carl Belew, equipment service and repair technician at the Central Office Mechanic Shop, has been promoted to the position of lead repair technician.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

Terry Brennen, forest management specialist at Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, has decided to retire after 35 years of service. Enjoy your retirement!

Sara Shullaw, GIS program manager at Central Office, has decided not to return from maternity leave and spend extra time with her twin sons. We wish Sara all the best and hope she enjoys every minute with Harry and Calvin.

Anna Cahoon, RC&D forester in Region 1, is leaving VDOF to spend more time with Pheobe, her baby daughter. Anna, enjoy your extra time with Pheobe!

Hope Tyzinski, program support technician in Region 5, left VDOF to accept the position of animal control officer/police officer for the City of Salem. We wish her the best in her new endeavor.

Angela Brown, payroll officer in the Fiscal Division at Central Office, has left VDOF after more than 18 years of service.

Bret Robinson, Loudoun County forester in Piedmont Region, left VDOF to move back to Pennsylvania. We wish him the best in his new endeavors.

Randy Robinson, Southampton County technician in Region 1, left VDOF to accept a position with a utility company. We wish him the best in his new job.

Pam Logan, program support technician in the General Services Division, left VDOF to accept a promotional opportunity with the Department of Corrections. Best wishes in your new position.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Patti Nylander, Augusta County forester in Piedmont Region, and her husband, Erik, welcomed a new son to their family. Jacob

Michael was born November 19. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

Adam Smith, Campbell County technician in Region 4, and his wife, Tracy, welcomed a new daughter to their family November 25. Ella Reece was 6 pounds, 7 ounces.

Matt Thurman, Henry County technician in Region 5, and his wife, Jackie, are proud new parents. Isaac Matthew arrived December 12. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces.

Neil Brooks, Franklin County technician in Region 5, and his wife, Nina, got a special, unexpected Christmas gift – the birth of their son. Peyton Neil Brooks arrived Christmas Day. He weighed 3 pounds, 14 ounces. Neil, Nina and baby Peyton are doing fine.

Brian Irvine, water quality engineer for Region 1, and his wife, Amy, welcomed a new daughter to their family. Emma Madeline was born December 27. She was 7 pounds, 15 ounces.

Rob Suydam, forest conservation specialist for Region 2, and wife, Kathy, are the parents of a new daughter! Sarah arrived January 23 weighing in at 8 pounds, 4 ounces. She was welcomed home by big brother Thomas Fischer.

David Tolliver, water quality specialist in Region 6, and wife, Sheila, are the new grandparents of a handsome boy! Tyler Blake Rasnake arrived January 26 weighing 9 pounds, 12 ounces.

CONDOLENCES

Shirley Clarke, retired office services specialist from our Sandston office, lost her 17-year-old grandson January 7 in a single-car accident. Andrew Clarke was a high school senior in Chester, VA.

Gene Rumsey, retired Spotsylvania County technician, and Erlene on the death of their son. Mark died January 2 at age 43 from cancer.

Dean Lowdermilk, nursery technician at Garland Gray Forestry Center, lost his mother December 6.

Herman Duke, retired technician, died January 26 at his home in Suffolk. He was 79 years old. Herman began his technician career in Region 1 in 1966 and retired in 1982.

Employee SPOTLIGHT

MICHELLE QUESENBERRY

Submitted by Greg Estolle, forester, Buchanan and Tazewell counties, Region 6

Michelle is VDOF's new technician in Buchanan County. She is a Virginian from the Floyd area who graduated from Radford University with a major in Recreation, Parks and Tourism. Prior to coming to VDOF, she worked for the USDA Forest Service mostly on the Grandfather Ranger District in North Carolina. While a technician for the feds, she worked as a wilderness ranger, built trails and pavilions and other duties before being detailed to the Asheville Interagency Hotshots. Other than working with the infamous Sparks boys on fire duty, she says that the best thing about working in Buchanan County is the close knit community that she has enjoyed quickly becoming a part of. People can say what they want about this county that is far from everything, but I can also attest that nearly everybody is incredibly hospitable – no matter how far up a "holler" they live.



While not working, Michelle loves to strum the guitar or just be around people making music, traveling, and getting outside to go hiking, canoeing or fly fishing. Besides traveling through the North American countries, she has been to Belize and a number of countries in Europe. I am sure that she would be happy to tell you about her travels, between songs of course, next time you get to see her.

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 W. White ~ Apr. 5 (R3)
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 W. Richert ~ Apr. 20 (R6)
John H. Pemberton ~ Apr. 21 (CO)
Brian E. Irvine ~ Apr. 21 (R1)
Ralph J. Brubaker ~ Apr. 22 (Ret.)
Steven Counts ~ Apr. 25 (R6)
Dennis L. York ~ Apr. 25 (Ret.)

Richard A. Gravley ~ 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)
Robert C. Suydam ~ May 3 (R2)
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)
Kelli B. Craddock ~ May 12 (CO)
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)
Dean P. Cumbia ~ May 20 (CO)
C. William Bruffey ~ May 22 (CO)
Barton J. Pfautz ~ May 23 (R2)
Dennis W. Anderson ~ May 24 (R5)
Larry W. Layman ~ May 24 (Ret.)
Jessica A. Carroll ~ 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)
Deborah B. Luna ~ June 2 (R4)
Donald M. Davis ~ June 5 (R1)
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)
Bryan P. Alexander ~ June 16 (R1)
Gerald R. Crowell ~ June 16 (R3)
Vanessa B. Blick ~ June 20 (GG)
Carolyn G. Haggerty ~ June 22 (AG)
Mitzi M. Lee ~ June 24 (CO)
Dennis R. Vaughan ~ June 24 (R4)
James C. Clark ~ June 25 (Ret.)
Thomas A. Edmonds ~ June 25 (R1)
David B. Powell ~ June 25 (R3)
James R. Gering ~ June 26 (Ret.)
Preston E. Trower ~ June 26 (Ret.)
Brenda H. Taylor ~ June 26 (CO)
Larry R. Willis ~ June 26 (Ret.)
Samuel R. Barkley ~ June 27 (Ret.)
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)



Project Learning Tree, continued from page 2

students on field trips to a Christmas tree farm and York River State Park. Meaningful watershed educational experiences for K-12 students are a keystone commitment of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Elizabeth Burke and Sheri Soyka, parent volunteers, led a "whole school" workshop for Wolftrap Elementary to support PLT activities that parents led in the classrooms. Fifty-one parents and teachers, grades K-6, attended the PLT sessions. The school has subsequently rallied to create a tremendous outdoor learning area through a partnership with the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and several other local businesses and non-profits.

Catherine Estes and Jackie Stallard from the American Forest Foundation led a workshop in December 2007 for Al-Fatih Academy, an Islamic school, in Herndon. This workshop supported the school's emphasis on values education, civic action and stewardship.

Overall, 59 Virginia PLT facilitators led 78 PLT workshops for 1,296 educators in 2007. Information on future workshops is posted on the Calendar of Events at www.plt.org and www.vanaturally.com. Please contact Lisa Deaton, forest education specialist at Sandston, if you have any questions about setting up a customized PLT workshop for educators in your locality.

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:


Summer Issue -- May 1, 2008

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2008

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2008

Spring Issue -- February 1, 2009

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 02/2008



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

please notify of address corrections