



WHEELIN' FORESTRY NEWS

A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

WHEELIN' SPORTSMEN AIM FOR GOBBLERS AT NEW KENT FORESTRY CENTER

Written by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

Five disabled sportsmen from across the state gathered April 23 for the first-ever spring gobbler hunt at the New Kent Forestry Center.

One gobbler was taken during the half-day hunt. Chad Porterfield, a 31-year-old amputee from Chesterfield County, hit the mark just before 7 a.m. Other hunters included: Robin Clark of Charlottesville, Lonnie Christian of Berryville, Barry Arrington of Bedford and Shawn Floyd of Glen Allen.

The event was coordinated by John Carroll, deputy state forester, and Dennis Gaston, Region 2 assistant regional forester. DOF partnered with the National Wild Turkey Federation's Virginia Wheelin' Sportsmen and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to make the event a success.

The hunters and 20 volunteers gathered Friday evening for some food (courtesy of the Virginia Wheelin' Sportsmen) and a safety briefing, given by a DGIF game warden. At 5 a.m. Saturday, the sportsmen met at the front gate and headed for their hunting stands, located in various areas around the New Kent Forestry Center. The volunteer turkey "callers" went into action 30 minutes before sunrise, and the first shot was taken by Mr. Porterfield at 6:50 a.m. Other hunters reported seeing and hearing turkeys, but none had the same success. The event concluded with a cookout provided by the Virginia Wheelin' Sportsmen.

State Forester Carl Garrison served as a volunteer Friday night and Saturday morning. He said, "This was a terrific event. While the birds were less than cooperative, every hunter and every volunteer said that they had a really good time. John (Carroll) and Dennis (Gaston) made DOF shine while helping to protect our forest nursery resources from an ever-growing wild turkey population at New Kent."

A second spring gobbler hunt for four different Wheelin' Sportsmen was held May 7 at NKFC.



Message

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



As you know, it's been a busy three months since the last edition of Forestry News. We just ended our seedling sales, put to bed one more planting season, concluded another spring fire season and wrapped up another session of the General Assembly. I'm happy to report that all four went well this year.

Our nursery folks lifted, graded and shipped more than 33.6 million seedlings. Our foresters and technicians oversaw the planting of more than 54,000 acres of forestland while "finding time" to fight more than 450 wildfires that burned more than 2,700 acres. Due to their tremendous efforts, we protected in excess of 200 homes and other structures. On behalf of all the citizens of the Commonwealth, congratulations and thank you for a job well done!

Our friends in the General Assembly saw to it that our Agency get a little extra funding for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1st. This money means we will be able to put another new dozer and transport out in the field. That is in addition to the 10 new ones we already put into service since January. We are also on schedule with money for computer replacement and "high-speed" Internet connections at the county level.

While it's nice to report these success stories – and this is not a complete list of all that's been accomplished thus far – it's not really about the good things that have happened. It's about you! You put forth the extra effort. You made sure that the job was done right and done right the first time. In doing so, you have made this agency the envy of others within State Government. This is not just faint praise – the proof is in our recruitment.

I can't tell you how many of our new employees have left positions at other government agencies to join us. That's the reality and you should be justly proud! I know I'm proud of you, as is our new Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. He made that point quite clearly in his remarks to the members of the Virginia Forestry Association at their annual convention in mid-April. And the VFA members applauded loudly!

So keep up the good work and know that those with whom we have contact respect and appreciate each and every one of you. "You" are the Department of Forestry!

Carl Harrison

ARBOR DAY SWEEPS THROUGH HAMPTON ROADS

Written by John Kauffman, forester, Region 1, Chesapeake

The buds on trees are just beginning to expand and the first signs of spring are only a few weeks behind us. This can mean only one thing: it's fire season; well, two things, it's time to celebrate Arbor Day.



Hampton Roads celebrated Arbor Day eight times during the month of April. Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach and five Naval Bases received the Tree City USA award; Norfolk is also a recipient of the Tree City USA award but its celebration is held in the fall. Celebrations ranged from games with preschoolers to presentations to the Mayor in front of garden clubs.

Several naval installations: Northwest Annex, Dam Neck, Little Creek and Oceana, relied on the assistance of the Virginia Urban Forest Council to provide the tree for their celebrations. These installations were very thankful that the Urban Forest Council was able to step up and make their celebrations a success.

In a place that is home to so many Virginians, it is an honor to play a part in these numerous celebrations.

Awards

AND ACHIEVEMENTS

DOF TAKES HOME NUMEROUS AWARDS AT VFA CONVENTION

Written by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

Two Board of Forestry members, one DOF employee and one retiree were honored for their work by the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) at its annual convention in April.

Board member Anitra Webster took home three awards: the President's Award, the Distinguished Member of the Year Award and a certificate for service to the VFA board. Board member Easton Loving and Deputy State Forester John Carroll also received a certificate for service to the VFA Board.

Retired State Forester Jim Garner received the Distinguished Service Award as well as a special commendation in recognition of his commitment to both the VFA and the Department of Forestry. Mr. Garner retired in October after 46 years with the DOF, the last 21 of which he served as State Forester.

BOF Chairman Harrell Turner was also in the spotlight a couple of times on the final evening of the convention. He was installed as the 36th VFA president, and he also provided the night's entertainment when he portrayed TV Sheriff Andy Taylor in a comic story routine.

Two of the three keynote speakers at the convention have strong DOF ties. Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Robert Bloxom and State Forester Carl Garrison each delivered speeches on their vision for the forests of Virginia. The day's third keynote address was provided by Dr. Michael Kelly, the new dean of the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech.

Two of the three pre-convention workshops featured DOF employees James Starr, director of forest management, and Lisa Deaton, Project Learning Tree coordinator. Caroline County Forester Matthew Coleman introduced the VFA Tree Farmers of the Year, Rob and Jane Wait.

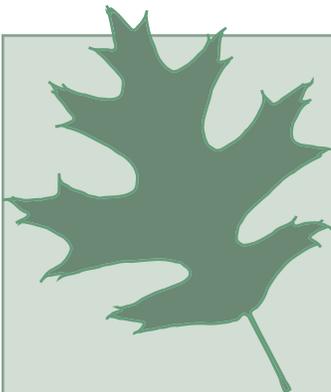
The convention wrapped up with a silent auction that raised more than \$4,000 to support Project Learning Tree.



Board members Anitra Webster (left) and Easton Loving (right) along with John Carroll, deputy state forester, received awards at the convention.



Harrell Turner, appearing as Sheriff Andy Taylor, presents the Distinguished Service Award to Jim Garner, retired state forester, accompanied by his wife, Mary Stewart.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Kenny Thomas, technician for Lee County in Region 6, is our new Employee of the Quarter. When asked for comments in support of Kenny's nomination, Ed Stoots, regional forester for Region 6, stated that Kenny's involvement with the logging community has been excellent, and he is involved with local government and State government issues. He also said that Kenny is always open to new ways of doing things and never totally discounts an idea. Kenny's direct supervisor, Chris Sullivan, also fully supported Kenny's nomination. Kenny is the immediate past chair of the Quality Work Group. As the chair, he led the group with an open mind and was instantly credible with the Strategic Management Team of DOF. His willingness to participate in projects such as the strategic plan goes beyond his normal duties. Good work, Kenny!

Nursery

FOCUS

NURSERIES PUT TO BED ANOTHER SEASON

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

DOF staff along with several migrant labor crews harvested, sold and distributed more than 33.6 million tree seedlings this year at the state's two forest nurseries. As in year's past, the number one seller was second generation loblolly pine.

"This was another busy year for us," said Dwight Stallard, forestry centers manager. "We lifted and graded a tremendous amount of seedlings. We could have sold even more if we hadn't run out of several varieties of trees."

Orders for seedlings began arriving in September 2004. Lifting operations commenced January 3, 2005. For the next 14 weeks, crews worked as many as six days per week to fill the orders. An average of 510,000 seedlings were processed each day.

Public Information Director John Campbell observed the process at the Garland Gray Forestry Center (GGFC) one Sunday in early March. "Everyone involved in the lifting and grading worked so hard that day," he said. "After six hours of watching and taking some photographs, I was exhausted FOR them. But they kept going and going – just like the Energizer bunny."

Stallard said, "Now that the planting season is over, you might think that things would slow down some. But we're already involved in the preparation work for next year. And if this year is any indication, next year will be even busier."

Folks at the Augusta Forestry Center (AFC) lifted and graded 8.4 million seedlings. And the people at Garland Gray processed 25.2 million seedlings. Augusta is primarily for hardwoods, such as oaks and shrubs for wildlife habitats, screening and for use in wetland areas for erosion control, although some white pine is grown there. Garland Gray is primarily for loblolly pine, but also has Virginia pine and shortleaf pine.



Virginia Forestry

WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

THE BRITISH ARRIVE

Written by Tom Snoddy, forester, Region 2, Spotsylvania

The Virginia Department of Forestry had the pleasure of hosting several foresters, scientists and land managers from the United Kingdom (UK) to assist in a research project on wood utilization. Virginia was one stop along the journey of these professionals, as they traveled along the East Coast of the United States, collecting data.

While in Virginia, the research group was looking for solutions to problems that were affecting the management decisions of the lands in the UK. They were hoping to exchange ideas, discover new techniques for forest management and understand more about our wood utilization. They were also interested in specialized harvesting equipment, as well as primary processing equipment, both on and off site.

Forest management in the UK is markedly different from forest management in the States, although, strangely enough, both are beginning to experience similar problems. Most forestland in the UK is publicly owned and that which is privately owned is open for limited public use. Managing forestland more efficiently due to fragmentation and conversion is one of the driving factors behind the research. Wood fiber demands are different there also, adding to the difference in management decisions.

Areas of particular interest to the UK group were harvesting hardwood on small tracts, specifically, less than 25 acres in size and the utilization of that wood once it had been harvested. Much of the timber the group was looking at was what American foresters would call hardwood pulpwood, but to the group from Europe, it is biomass, or boiler fuel chips. Small woodlot management is a concern in both realms.

Cooperators in this tour included private landowners, timber harvesters, sawmills, forest industry and government agencies. Private landowners, who graciously allowed the tour to visit their property, include Mr. Harold Brooks (Spotsylvania County), Mr. John Burke (Caroline County) and Mr. Thomas Sizer (King William County). Timber Harvesters who gave their time include T.C. Catlett Lumber Company Inc. sawmill, H.L. Williams and Sons Logging Inc. and J.H. Knighton Lumber Company. Forest industry supporters include Dan Griffin, regional forester for NewPage, and private consulting forester John Magruder. Finally, there were numerous individuals with the Virginia Department of Forestry who assisted in this project by making room in their schedule to lend a hand.

As with any industry, change in the natural resources industry is inevitable. The forests are changing, the land base is changing, landowner demographics are changing - forest management must change to remain viable. Understanding those changes, and adapting to them is an important goal of this project.



“PINOS GRANDES, PINOS PEQUENOS, PINOS, PINOS, PINOS!”

Written by Justin Hancock, forester, Region 1, Greenville

“Pinos grandes, pinos pequenos, pinos, pinos, pinos!” No, it is not misspelled profanity, it is translated as large pines, small pines, pines, pines, pines. Springtime represents planting season for many landowners, planting crews and DOF employees. Flowers, shrubs and trees are all growing, and, as a forester, this planting season has helped me to grow, too.

Spring 2005 has been my first real planting season. When I was told that a Honduran planting crew had been hired for this season’s planting in Greenville County, I was a bit concerned that communication would be broken between the crew and me. I had taken three years of Spanish in high school, just enough to opt out of studying foreign language in college, but I knew that I was foreign-language-challenged. Memories of learning the unusual dialect frustrated me and created a negative impression in my mind regarding any cultural dissimilarity. I soon learned, however, that the little bit of Spanish I remembered was enough to make basic conversation. As I continued working with the crew through the spring, I learned more and more Spanish conversation, and I found myself enjoying the foreign language. I would come home and practice the dialect that I was able to pick up during the day. I researched words I had heard and taught myself new words that I thought would aid me in the field. Spanish speech is one of the greatest tools that a forester can have. It has helped me so many times in discussing the who, what, when, where and why of planting season with a crew, which is outstanding at its occupation.

My experiences with the Honduran planting team have been both challenging and rewarding. I have learned a new appreciation for a forestry-related study that never ranked with much importance to me before. The Honduran helpers have taught me a bit about planting, but more importantly, they have taught me the importance of embracing diversity through language and culture. I anticipate next year’s planting season, and I look forward to expanding my knowledge of new language, new understanding and new friends.

The weather in Virginia made the group from the United Kingdom feel right at home as they toured the East Coast of the United States.

Fire

FOCUS

SPRING FIRE SEASON CONCLUDES

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

Extra effort by DOF foresters and technicians, weather and a grant-funded advertising campaign combined to produce a relatively good spring fire season this year.

Compared to the spring 2004 season, fires decreased 43 percent and acres burned went down 35 percent. Spring 2005 saw 473 fires (824 in 2004) that burned a total of 2,723 acres (4,241 were lost last spring).

The drought index in all six regions remained below 100 (on the 800 point scale) for virtually the entire four months of 2005. It wasn't until the latter part of April that the index in some regions climbed above 100, which means that it would take one inch of rain for the ground to be saturated.

"This season's moisture pattern – snow or rain every few days – certainly worked in our favor," said John Miller, director of resource protection. "Add the Isabel advertising campaign we produced to the hard work of our fire crews and we ended up having a pretty decent fire season. Of course, even one forest fire is one too many."



The Isabel advertising campaign was led by Fred Turck. He and a team of people from several southern states, conceived the ideas, wrote the copy and oversaw the production of television, radio, newspaper and billboard advertisements that ran in almost every major market in the Commonwealth. Two of the radio spots were produced in both English and Spanish to increase the dissemination of the important message that Isabel created a tremendous amount of forest fire fuel and that everyone needed to be extra cautious this year.

Turck said, "The grant enabled us to effectively deliver a stronger prevention and awareness message than ever before. We bought TV time in Norfolk, Richmond, Lynchburg, Roanoke and Charlottesville – something we could never have afforded without the grant from the U.S. Forest Service."

Radio spots aired in Hampton Roads and Richmond markets. Print ads ran in "Blue Ridge Outdoors." Turck produced 12 outdoor billboards that were hung in various locations throughout southeastern Virginia, and he developed several motorized indoor displays that were used by the regions to help spread the word about the potential for "Isabel's wounds becoming Virginia's fire scars." (A related, but not Isabel-centered, radio campaign ran on stations in Regions 5 and 6.)

Miller said, "People took notice of the ads. Everywhere we went, folks would say they had seen the TV commercials or heard the radio spots. Obviously, a connection was made and this helped to reduce the number of fires this year."

In addition to the paid advertising, a number of news stories appeared statewide on TV, aired on numerous radio stations and were written about in dozens of newspapers. Some of the stories were about actual fires, while many others were about DOF efforts to prevent forest fires and to increase awareness of the factors that lead to forest fires.

Partnership

FOR MINORITY LANDOWNERS

DOF AND VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY PARTNER TO DEVELOP A MINORITY LANDOWNER TOUR

Written by John Campbell, director, Public Information Division

Forest Management Director James Starr and Chesterfield Forester Richard Reuse led a group of Virginia State University extension agents on a tour of five Chesterfield County forestlands as a prelude to a minority landowner tour to be held this fall.

The well-planned tour introduced VSU staff to the economic and environmental aspects of forested lands and also provided some stark contrasts that clearly demonstrated the benefits of applying herbicides to pine plantations. The VSU staff will use this information to recruit more than 60 minority landowners to participate in a day-long workshop and tour designed to encourage them to create forest lands on their property.

Reuse said, "This was an opportunity to educate nearly a dozen professionals who are a vital link to a group of landowners we haven't reached before. Everyone who participated said it was a truly worthwhile activity, and they are looking forward to helping us plan the actual landowner tour this fall."

The tour began at the junction of two pine stands that were planted five years ago. On the one side, the pines were five to seven feet high and growing well. On the other side of the sandy road, the much smaller pines were struggling to survive. The first tract had been sprayed a year after planting. The second tract did not have an application of herbicide.

At the second stop, the benefits of spraying were even more evident. The side by side tracts had been planted 10 years ago. To the left, the pines were well above 15 feet high. To the right, you could not tell that there were any pines ever planted there. Once again, the sprayed side was enjoying good growth while the unsprayed side was a tangled mess of hardwoods and underbrush.

The final three stops were at tracts planted 12, 13 and 18 years ago. Again, spraying and selective harvesting made for pronounced differences in the health and vitality of the pine plantations.

Chesterfield's new forest technician, Jeff Darr, assisted in the various presentations made at each of the tour's five stops.



Jeff Darr, technician, Chesterfield County, demonstrates the use of an increment borer to measure the age and growth of a tree.



Jeff Darr, technician, Chesterfield County, explains how to use a prism to measure stand density.



Rich Reuse, forester, Chesterfield County, discusses forest management with a landowner.



James Starr, director, Resource Management, points out the benefits of spraying.

A Celebration

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM IN SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Written by Tom Snoddy, forester, Region 2, Spotsylvania

Spotsylvania County, located in northern Region 2, has recently completed its spring session of the Outdoor Classroom. Spotsylvania, being a fast-growing county, has many students who are from a suburban or urban area. Often these students have become out of touch with nature, and do not have the luxury of woodland nearby in which to explore and learn. This has created a large need for a field trip called the Outdoor Classroom. Its primary goal is to tie together concepts taught in the classroom with educational talks given on a nature trail. By working closely with the school system, each fourth grade class is brought to Oakley Farm to experience nature, agriculture and life sciences. The goal is to cover topics the students will see on their Standards Of Learning (SOL) exams, as well as to present to them a fire prevention message. As with many areas around the state, this area of Virginia has a large number of juvenile fire setters, so having the students' attention for a fire prevention message is incredibly important.

The field day has four stations that the students visit, with the Department of Forestry being one of those stations. Classes rotate throughout the day at 50 minute intervals, to stations that include the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation, as well as the Virginia Cooperative Extension. A special thanks should

be extended to the Beals family, owners of Oakley Farm, who host the event each spring and fall. Also, 4H is a large supporter of the program, along with many local businesses. Without the willingness of these volunteers, this program would not come together as it does.

This spring, the local newspaper ran an article concerning the event, complete with several color photographs and a message stressing the importance of natural resource education. The students enjoy learning about nature, and, hopefully, are able to use the experience to understand better what they have been learning in the classroom.



Dennis Gaston, assistant regional forester, Region 2, shows the kids the DOF Hummer.

TOWN OF VINTON TREE CITY USA ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Written by Bob Boeren, forester, Region 5, Botetourt County

Bob Boeren, forester in Botetourt, Roanoke and Craig counties, and Smokey Bear celebrated Arbor Day on April 22nd with the students of Herman L. Horn Elementary School. All four localities in Roanoke (Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, City of Roanoke and the City of Salem) are Tree City USAs. Bob assists with Arbor Day celebrations in all four localities. His "Ranger Bob" talks at the Arbor Day celebrations tell the students the importance of trees. Bob also gave each student a white pine seedling to take home and plant.



on of Spring

THE 2005 MID-ATLANTIC GARDEN FAIRE

Written by Bill Worrell, RC&D forester, Region 6

The VDOF graced the garden faire with two exhibits on a cold, wet, and snowy April weekend in Abingdon. The outdoor exhibit was a Firewise demonstration using the model fire shack to demonstrate the good and bad conditions of living in the wildland urban interface. A model rain garden was used along side of the firewise shack to educate and inform the public on rain gardens. The rain and snow made it difficult to attract homeowners' attention to the Firewise program; however, the rain garden exhibit and brochure received much attention and interest.

The indoor exhibit highlighted conserving the forest land base and conservation easements. Some local landowners were interested in conservation easements, and we were able to provide information about conservation easements for preserving our working forests. The following Region 6 employees helped make the DOF presence at the garden faire a success: Janet Barr, Bill Miller, David Richert, Steve Shelley, Chris Sullivan, Steve Wells, Bill Worrell, Randy Short, and Ed Stoots. A very special thanks goes to Steve Shelley who set up the exhibits and model rain garden!



Steve Wells, technician, Russell County, talks with a landowner at the garden faire.

Firewise shack and the rain garden were displayed at the garden faire.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY VIEWSHED PLANTING

Written by Bob Boeren, forester, Region 5, Botetourt County

Bob Boeren, forester in Botetourt, Roanoke and Craig counties, worked with Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Roanoke City Kiwanis club, Virginia's Explore Park, Roanoke Valley Child Advocacy Center and kids, to plant 150 hardwood seedlings with tree shelters, stakes and mats as part of an Earth Day celebration April 23rd. Paul Revell donated the seedlings and materials to make this project possible. Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Susan Mills, executive director, coordinated the "Last Chance Viewshed Preservation" project. Additional tree plantings will be occurring, over the next several years, along the section of Blue Ridge Parkway that runs through the Roanoke area. Bob is on a viewshed planting steering committee that is planning these tree plantings.



Bob Boeren, forester, and Susan Mills, executive director, are proud of the success of the "Last Chance Viewshed Preservation" project.



Many volunteers came together to plant 150 hardwood seedlings.

Resource Information

FOCUS

FOREST SPATIAL ANALYSIS CENTER 3D LIDAR IMAGE OF ABSF

*Written by John Scrivani, director,
Resource Information Division*



JIM PUGH,
RESOURCE
INFORMATION

DOF has established a Forest Spatial Analysis Center to provide customers, both internal and external, with the best available maps, aerial photos, satellite images and GIS analysis concerning forest resources in the Commonwealth. The Center will combine our existing GIS and GPS resources along with new remote sensing capabilities.

The latest addition is a new staff member, Jim Pugh, who started March 25 as a GIS/Remote Sensing Analyst. Jim has five years experience in GIS and remote sensing, including work in New Guinea and most recently, Fort Pickett where he worked for Virginia Tech's Conservation Management Institute. Jim's first project will be to develop an up-to-date forest cover type map for Virginia using satellite imagery. Jim joins John Scrivani, Mindia Brown and Jason Braunstein as Center staff.

The Center will cooperate with outside partners, particularly Virginia Tech and the United States Forest Service. The image is from a cooperative study we have with Professor Randy Wynne at Tech looking at applications of LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) to forestry. We have twice obtained LIDAR images of a 3 km x 3 km area of the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, providing us with 3-dimensional models of the forest stands found there. Several studies have focused on counting trees, measuring stand heights, estimating timber volumes, automated stand delineation, and estimating fuel landings from the LIDAR data.

In addition to the forest cover-type mapping, the center will undertake projects such as: updating the 1995 Forest Resource Assessment, the detection and mapping of harvests and disturbances; the mapping of forest health problems; providing GIS support for forest inventory; mapping forest carbon flows, mapping forest fire risk and the wildland-urban interface; and forested watershed modeling. The Center will also support ForestRIM and the Riparian Buffer Tax Credit Online Mapping Tool.



3D LIDAR image of Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest.

NEW TECHNIQUES TRIED TO INCREASE NATIVE LONGLEAF PINE SEED YIELDS

Written by Bill Apperson, forester, Region 2, James City and York counties

One of the most difficult problems that limit the establishment of native longleaf plantations in Virginia is the very low seed yields – no seedlings or very, very few seedlings – from the few native trees we have in Virginia.

It is not unusual for any population of plants that are growing on the edge of its native range to have many “problems.” The low yield of longleaf pine seed could be caused by low pollen yields, insects, weather, or by some other factor we are not aware of.

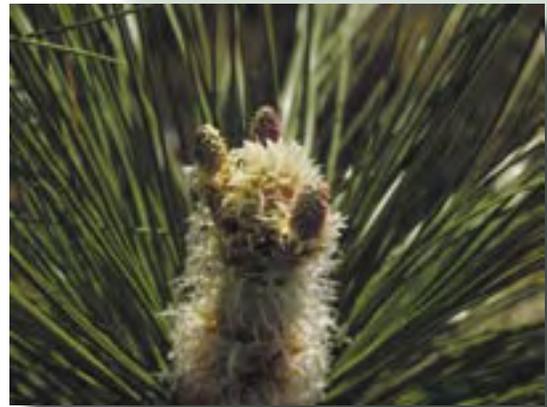
This spring we decided to hand pollinate as many longleaf “female flowers” – flowers grow into conelets and then cones – as we could. Pollen was bagged to force ripening about two weeks ahead of the estimated pollen shed date and female flower receptivity. The pollen ripened well and was collected for use before the females were open – that is – ready for pollination. As the female flowers grew from the bud scales and opened for pollen, we placed the collected pollen directly on the flower. If this works, we should greatly increase the number of sound seed per cone. We have records from the past two years and it will be easy to see if we are successful.

Insects are also a big problem. This year, Chris Asaro has supplied us with a new tool to fight cone and seed insects. We will be trying a soil injection insecticide on a selected number of trees to check the tool’s effectiveness.

We really don’t know the reason for the low seed yields, but if it is low pollen counts or seed bugs, we should see some increase in the yield of viable seed.



Longleaf pine female flowers before pollination.



Longleaf pine female flowers after pollination.

A GIFT TO THE STATE FOREST

Submitted by Jim Garner, retired state forester

Marge and Pete Van Demon, representing the Float Fishermen of Virginia (FFV), presented Gary Heiser, manager, State Forests, with a new set of flags for the Cumberland State Forest office. The US flag was flown over the nation’s capital. The FFV has held its annual meeting at the Cumberland State Forest for the last several years and the group has volunteered several work weekends to do such things as develop a river access camping area, clean-up of trails and lake areas, install a new sign at the entrance and work on the sporting clay range. All members enjoy the location, hospitality of the forest employees and opportunity to “just to get away”. After the last annual meeting, the club donated \$200 to the forest for whatever good use it could provide.



Employee

SPOTLIGHT



JEFF DARR,
REGION 2

Submitted by Dennis Gaston, assistant regional forester, Region 2

The Chesterfield County technician position has been something of a revolving door in the last 10 years. We're happy to see someone assisting Rich Reuse again, who's been without help for nearly two years.

Jeff Darr comes to the DOF from Wheaton, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Jeff received his bachelor's in Forestry from Southern Illinois University in 2003. Since then, he has been working as a printer near the Chicago area. While he was making pretty good money up there, he hadn't yet begun living his dream.

Jeff had always loved the woods and being outdoors, and he wanted to work in forestry. He said, "Hey, this is America! You go after your goals here." So, on March 7, Jeff started his career with the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Jeff is filling the position left open when Heather Barrar left in 2003. He has been doing BMP inspections and planting quality plots for two months now. He says, "So far, I'm thinking my career decision was great."

Jeff loves backpacking and fishing and just about any outdoor activity. He has been backpacking all over the United States, from the Olympia National Park in Washington state to the Great Smokey Mountains in North Carolina to the deserts of Arizona. His favorite hiking spot is in Minnesota along Lake Superior.

When you meet Jeff, you'll find his enthusiasm contagious. He has jumped into his new job with both feet, and we are as excited about his potential as he is to be here.



KATHLEEN
OGILVY,
REGION 2

Submitted by Dennis Gaston, assistant regional forester, Region 2

The western part of region 2 has no shortage of new faces filling vacant positions. The latest in a virtual epidemic of new employees is Kathleen Ogilvy, technician in Hanover County. This position has been vacant since the retirement of Earl Rice in June 2001, and Dave Terwilliger is overjoyed at the prospect of having quality help in the county.

Kathleen is a native Virginian, born and raised in Fairfax County. As long as she can remember, she's been attracted to an outdoor, environmentally-oriented career. She attended Virginia Tech where Kathleen and forestry literally "found each other." While still in school, Kathleen worked as an intern with the California Department of Forestry (CDF). As a forestry aide in California, she worked on a variety of projects ranging from recreation to measuring continuous inventory plots. Alas, she did not get to work on any infamous California fires while employed out west.

Kathleen graduated from VPI in May 2004 with a bachelor's in Forestry and immediately went to work with International Paper in Franklin, Virginia. She was mostly involved with the mid-rotation management group and dealt with projects such as: pine thinning, herbicide prescriptions, "age-1 surveys" (we call them reinspections) and developing post-thin cruise data for growth models.

She began her DOF career March 7 as the Hanover County technician, but her duties will extend into Henrico County to assist with BMP inspections. Kathleen is very interested in environmental education and wants to use her DOF career to help develop skills in this area. She has a keen interest in travel and has been to Italy, England and across the United States. She also enjoys hiking, camping, exercise and nutrition. Kathleen is excited about exploring new opportunities, and we welcome her into the DOF family.

Just like Hanover County, New Kent and Charles City counties are experiencing a changing of the guard in the DOF office. John Houchins vacated the technician position last year, and Dennis Gaston moved up to assistant regional forester in Sandston just this year. To fill the void, Paul Reier has moved into the technician spot.

Paul comes to us with loads of experience. He has been the tree improvement technician at New Kent Forestry Center for 26 years. Starting his DOF career in April 1979, Paul accepted the job after Billy Apperson became the chief forest warden for James City and York counties. Paul worked under a stream of tree improvement foresters during his stay, including Ron Wasser, Ron Jenkins, Laurie Apgar Chandler and finally, after the position stood open for a while, Ones Bitoki, who moved over from Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA).

Paul was born and raised in south central Pennsylvania in the suburbs of York. He can trace his interest in forestry as far back as high school, when he spent a summer at a Lutheran Church Camp in New England doing trail maintenance "and other outdoor stuff." He received an associate's in Applied Science and Forestry from Williamsport Area Community College in Pennsylvania. He even worked on a 3,000-acre fire in Pennsylvania in 1978.

While with tree improvement, Paul can point to a great many contributions. But, he feels his crowning achievement was the design and construction of two state-of-the-art greenhouse facilities at New Kent Forestry Center. He became known around the Forestry Center as a jack-of-all-trades. There is not much equipment he can't operate and repair. Some of his colleagues will joke that many of the repairs needed to be done only after he operated the equipment. But there is no doubt that Paul is talented.

Paul comes to us with a great deal of fire experience, mostly local, but some western Virginia assignments under his belt as well. He has been a local dozer operator for many years and has all the necessary fire training already.

At the writing of this article, interviews are being scheduled for the forester position in New Kent and Charles City counties. When this is filled, it will be a whole new team in the work area. In the last two months, Paul has shown a real knack for the job. With a new partner coming on, we look for big things from that part of the Region.

Louisa County in Region 3 has a new Technician. Erik Filep is from Campbell County and is a 2003 graduate from Virginia Tech where he earned a bachelor's in Natural Resource Recreation, minors in Forestry and Environmental Policy and Planning. Erik has worked with the Alaska State Parks and the Forest Service. More recently he worked as an arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts in Charlottesville.

Erik is married to Stephanie, who is a lab technician for Upstate, a biotechnology company, in Charlottesville.

Erik enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and whitewater rafting. He also loves going down to Blacksburg with his wife and friends to watch some good old fashioned Hokie football.

Erik Filep is proud to start his career with the Department of Forestry and will do his best to uphold the vision of the DOF and help Virginia stay the most beautiful state in the country.



PAUL REIER,
REGION 2

*Submitted by Dennis Gaston,
assistant regional forester, Region 2*



ERIK FILEP,
REGION 3

Submitted by Dave Stone, forester, Region 3

Human Resources

NEWS

WELCOME!!!

Todd Edgerton is our new forest health forester. He is a P-14 with the GIS Unit. In his new position, he will work with Chris Asaro on forest health surveys and research.

Rodney Newlin is our new water quality engineer for Region 3. He comes to us from the West Virginia Division of Forestry where he has been doing the same type of job for the past nine years. He holds a B.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech. In 1992 and 1993, he served as a forestry co-op student in Region 2.

Jim Pugh is our new GIS/remote sensing analyst. He received his Bachelor's in Resource Development and his Master's in Environmental Science from the University of Rhode Island. Jim was the GIS technician for the Virginia Tech Conservation Management Institute in Blackstone. Prior to that, he had five years' experience working with GIS and remote sensing technology.

Jeff Darr is our new Chesterfield/Henrico technician in Region 2. He received his Bachelor's in Forestry from Southern Illinois University. While in school, he worked as a turf grass research assistant.

David Richert is our new Tazewell County forester in Region 6. He holds both a Bachelor's in Forest Resource Management and a Master's in Forestry from Virginia Tech. He is coming to us from DCR, where he was the SW Region Steward stationed in Abingdon. David has previously worked for the U.S. Forest Service and Champion International Corporation.

Kathleen Ogilvy is our new Hanover/Henrico technician in Region 2. She has a Bachelor's in Forestry from Virginia Tech. She most recently worked as a Forester for International Paper. While in school, Kathleen interned as a forestry aide with the California Department of Forestry.

RETIREMENTS

Jim Steele, technician for Tazewell County in Region 6, retired on February 28. Jim was with the department for 21 years. We wish him well and hope he enjoys his retirement.

FAREWELL & BEST WISHES

Jean Lorber, forester for Powhatan County in Region 4, has accepted a position with the Nature Conservancy. We wish him well in his new endeavors. You will be missed.

Elizabeth Hillyer, administrative specialist for Region 2, is leaving us for an excellent opportunity with her former employer. We wish her the best of luck in her new job. She will be greatly missed in Region 2.

Laura Polant, technician for Henry County in Region 5, left us for a new opportunity. Best wishes to Laura in her new endeavors.

Roberta Duncan, administrative specialist for Region 3, left us to work at Lake Anna State Park closer to home. Best wishes!

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Amy Ricotta has accepted the purchasing officer position. Amy has been acting in this position since last Fall. Congratulations, Amy!

Barbara White, assistant regional forester in Region 3, was selected for the partnership coordinator position with the Resource Management Division. In her new position, she will work closely with Paul Revell on the Urban and Community Forestry program. Congratulations, Barbara!

Todd Kready has accepted the position of Forester for Middlesex County in Region 2. Todd was the Technician for Henry County in Region 5. He has been with the department since January 2004.

Paul Reier, formerly tree improvement technician at the New Kent Forestry Center, transferred to the James City/York/New Kent/Charles City technician position in Region 2.

NEW ARRIVALS

Chris Sullivan and wife, Amy, welcomed a new daughter into their family on March 31. Chris is an assistant regional forester for Region 6. Baby Jettie Ann Sullivan weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

Terry Lasher and wife, Carey, welcomed their first child. Terry is the forester for King William County in Region 2. Lauren Lasher was born on February 24. She weighed 8

pounds, 9 ounces. Our best wishes to Lauren and her parents.

Keith Brown became a dad and **Alan Craft** became a grandpa! Congratulations to Keith Brown, telecommunications at Central Office, and his wife, Katie, on the birth of their first child. Maddie Kiersten Brown blessed us with her arrival on March 12 at 1:16 a.m. She measured 21 inches long and weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. Congratulations go out to the three of them and, let's not forget, Grandma and Grandpa Craft! Maddie's grandpa is Alan Craft, technician for Alleghany County in Region 5.

Dwayne Huff, formerly of Region 6, and wife, Cindy, have two new family members. Haley and Clara were born February 27. They weighed 7.9 and 7 pounds. Congratulations!

CONDOLENCES

Ed "Woody" Washington, lead worker at the New Kent Forestry Center, on the loss of his father in March.

Lawrence Tankersley, forester for Wise County in Region 6, on the death of his grandfather.

Blair Dalton, technician for Mecklenburg County in Region 4, on the loss of his father on March 4.

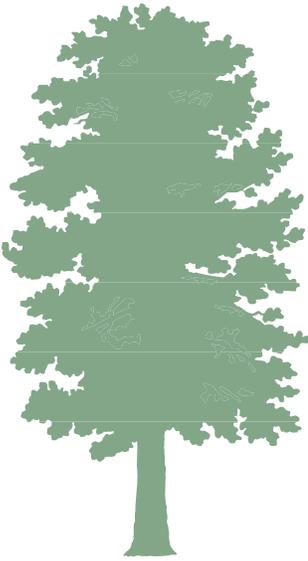
Fred Turck, Resource Protection Division at Central Office, on the loss of his mother-in-law who passed away February 11 after an extended illness.

Doug Audley, forester, Amelia County in Region 4, on the loss of his father-in-law in May.

David Tolliver, technician in Region 6, on the loss of his mother in February.

Leonard Tennant on the loss of his father, Maynard Tennant, who passed away in March in West Virginia. Leonard is the retired forester from Cumberland County, and Sue Tennant (Leonard's wife) is assistant regional forester for Region 4.

Jessica Parker, Fiscal Division at Central Office, on the death of her father (Jesse Parker) who passed away unexpectedly in April.



TIMBER SALES CAN BE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Submitted by Gerald Crowell, forester, Region 3, Frederick and Clark counties

We always hear about badly handled timber sales, but there are good ones, too.

In 1984, a Frederick County landowner asked me for management advice. Lo and behold, he took my advice and hired a consulting forester to handle a selective harvest timber sale on his 50 acres of mixed eastern hardwoods. A nice, clean logging job was also accomplished.

In 2004, the original owner's son had inherited the property and wanted another timber sale. He contacted the same consulting forester, who marked the same 50 acres of timber. It was sold and cut last summer. Another nice, clean logging job. The following volumes are International 1/4 inch scale.

- 1984: 438 trees, average volume per tree of 214 board feet, total volume 94,000
- 2004: 453 trees, average volume per tree of 329 board feet, total volume 149,000

Same consulting forester, same acreage and almost the same number of trees. But a volume increase of 55,000 thousand board feet (MBF). Plus, this 55,000 board feet increase in tree size was put onto high-quality trees left in the 1984 harvest by the forester.

As we know, prices in timber sales are subject to many variables. It's also hard to compare timber prices 20 years apart because markets change, different buyers are in the mix, etc. (But there were better quality trees in the 2004 sale than the 1984 sale.) With that, the 1984 sale grossed \$229 MBF, or \$21,500. The 2004 sale sold for \$715 MBF, or \$106,400.

A good comparison of almost duplicate timber sales on the same acreage 20 years apart, and there are even better quality trees left this time for the next harvest. This example shows what a landowner can accomplish by following the advice of a professional forester working for him.

This is the kind of information we need to be getting out to both landowners and the general public.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Junius Miles (SF) ~ July 21
 Anne M. Skalski (CO) ~ July 22
 Vance A. Blick (GG) ~ July 24
 D. Drew Arnn (R5) ~ July 25
 Philip N. Carpenter (R3) ~ July 25
 Tammy C. Ingle (SF) ~ July 26
 Nelson D. Jarvis (R2) ~ July 27
 Jeffrey D. Francisco (R4) ~ July 30
 Hal W. Myers (R3) ~ July 30
 Christopher Thomsen (R5) ~ July 30
 Joseph D. Rossetti (CO) ~ Aug. 3
 Jimmy R. Steele (RET) ~ Aug. 6
 Charlie M. Yopp (R5) ~ Aug. 6
 Jerry W. Bailey (R2) ~ Aug. 10
 Leonard L. Tennant (RET) ~ Aug. 10
 Jean H. Lorber (R4) ~ Aug. 11
 J. Miller Adams (R4) ~ Aug. 12
 J. Richard Inge (RET) ~ Aug. 13
 Dennis R. McCarthy (R5) ~ Aug. 14

Larry W. Estes (AG) ~ Aug. 15
 John E. Seaquist (RET) ~ Aug. 16
 Charles L. Rammell (RET) ~ Aug. 18
 J. Michael Foreman (CO) ~ Aug. 19
 Donald L. Hixson (RET) ~ Aug. 20
 Heather E. Manson (R1) ~ Aug. 20
 Scott G. Bachman (R1) ~ Aug. 21
 Kathy F. Frazier (RET) ~ Aug. 22
 E. Pickett Upshaw (R2) ~ Aug. 23
 Thomas A. Snoddy (R2) ~ Aug. 26
 C. Cody Daniels (R1) ~ Aug. 27
 Peter E. O'Brien (RET) ~ Aug. 27
 Warren E. Coburn (R2) ~ Aug. 28
 Avond M. Randolph (SF) ~ Sept. 1
 Angela L. Conary (R1) ~ Sept. 2
 Michael A. Santucci (R3) ~ Sept. 3
 Earl N. Bobby Atkins (RET) ~ Sept. 4
 Thomas L. Frazier (AG) ~ Sept. 5
 William B. Neff (R6) ~ Sept. 5

David E. Bruce (CO) ~ Sept. 6
 Charlene O. Bardon (R4) ~ Sept. 7
 James E. Bowen (CO) ~ Sept. 7
 Judith A. Okay (R3) ~ Sept. 8
 Alton L. Dean (AG) ~ Sept. 9
 Lisa A. Krajewski (R2) ~ Sept. 9
 Randy A. Short (R6) ~ Sept. 9
 Larry J. Cochran (CO) ~ Sept. 12
 Calvin E. Ricks (R1) ~ Sept. 12
 Antonia Sanderson (R1) ~ Sept. 14
 H. Gwynn Tyler (R4) ~ Sept. 14
 Donald G. Drake (RET) ~ Sept. 16
 Charles H. Knoeller (R2) ~ Sept. 16
 Anna E. Kroyer (R1) ~ Sept. 16
 Carrington Newsome (R2) ~ Sept. 16
 Robert K. Boeren (R5) ~ Sept. 21
 W. Alex Williamson (R4) ~ Sept. 21
 William C. Worrell (R6) ~ Sept. 22
 Joseph W. Schaefer (CO) ~ Sept. 23
 Herbert M. Reynolds (R3) ~ Sept. 26

Mail Bag



Will Shoup, technician,
Lancaster and Northumberland
counties, Region 2

Dear Will,

Thank you so much for volunteering your time to help the 7th grade from Lancaster Middle School plant trees at Dameron Marsh. You helped make this field trip very educational and fun for the students. Every student had an excellent time and wanted to participate in this project again! Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Brandi Brown
7th Grade Science Teacher at LMS

Greg Meade, assistant regional forester,
Region 3

Mr. Meade,

We did indeed have a fire on our farm on February 6th, and it was the most terrifying experience for myself and my family in the nearly 30 years that we have lived there. I would like to express my most sincere appreciation and gratitude for the prompt, professional, efficient and thorough response of the representatives of the Department of Forestry under the direction of Hal Myers as well as the members of the volunteer fire departments who responded to our call.

Very, very gratefully yours,
The McFadden Family

Contacts AND INFORMATION

Submit articles by email. Simple text is best. Color photos, slides, negatives, or high quality digital photos are all acceptable. Clearly label photos including who to return them to.

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

The deadlines are as follows:

Fall Issue -- August 1, 2005

Winter Issue -- November 1, 2005

Spring Issue -- February 1, 2006

Summer Issue -- May 1, 2006

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please notify of address corrections