Dean Cumbia Receives Distinguished Service Award

Submitted by Resource Management Division

Originally Printed by Virginia Forestry Association in Virginia Forests magazine.

Dean Cumbia, director of the Forest Resource Management Division of the Virginia Department of Forestry, received the Virginia Forestry Association’s (VFA) “Distinguished Service Award” at the VFA annual meeting in May 2007. This award was established by the VFA to recognize individuals, groups and entities that have made significant, long-lasting contributions to Virginia’s forest-based community. The recipient must be someone who has demonstrated leadership and a positive impact on Virginia’s forest resources. The recipient must also have a history of a personal commitment to the enhancement of Virginia’s forest resources and have the qualities of integrity and good citizenship.

Dean began his forestry career with Continental Forest Industries in 1983, after receiving a B. S. in Forestry and Wildlife Management from Virginia Tech. A VFA member since 1980, he has served for many years as a member of the organization’s Board of Directors and has been a tireless member of the Virginia Forests magazine committee.

In presenting the award, VFA President John Burke noted, “Dean is tireless in his commitment to people, to sound forestry and to organizations and institutions that allow us to wisely manage, harvest and profit from our forest resources in Virginia.”

VFA President’s Award for 2007

Submitted by Resource Management Division

When the President’s Award was established by the VFA, its purpose was to recognize individuals who, through their own extraordinary efforts, have made a significant contribution to forestry and who work behind the scenes and beyond the call of duty.

This year, VFA did something different. In the past, a single individual has been awarded the President’s Award. This year, a group of individuals were given the President’s Award and an exemplary member of that group was singled out to receive the award on behalf of the group. The recipient of this year’s award is Matthew Coleman, on behalf of all hard-working foresters within the
Well, we’ve pushed the clocks back one hour, and we’re heading into the holiday season – a time when we take stock of and give thanks for our many blessings. But this year is a little different as we adjust to the significant and difficult budget reductions in the Commonwealth. I certainly do not relish the idea of being thought of as Mr. Scrooge, but I realize that some of you may be asking why something in our budget was cut instead of something else. And your question deserves an answer.

As soon as we heard there was a potential budget reduction, the executive management team met to consider how we could best deal with any number of potential scenarios and a moving budget reduction target amount. Certainly, the easiest way (financially) to deal with this cut would have been to pull all or most of the money from our largest budget category – personnel. While people are the heart and soul of the VDOF, you, me and our colleagues are also the source of our largest budget expenditure. Our salaries and benefits constitute 70 percent of the budget. So, in a very un-Scrooge-like fashion, I made the decision that we would not make any of the cuts on the backs of our employees. Of course, this meant that the five percent reduction ($853,184) would now have to come from the remaining 30 percent of our Agency budget.

Removing that much money from the Agency’s operating fund was painful. We all know it. And the budget cuts may not be over. The General Assembly still needs to approve the Governor’s budget proposal. If they change things, we could face additional cuts. We have to deal with this reality the best we can. If we all pitch in and work together, we can prevent the pain from getting worse. Whether it’s simply accepting the mileage restrictions instead of complaining about them or developing new ways to continue to provide great service to our many customers, you have the power to make it happen. So, keep up your professional demeanor; give 100 percent every day, and don’t let this budget reduction be a convenient excuse for not performing at the highest level.

Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season!

Carl Garrison
State Forester

VFA President’s Award, continued from page 1

Department of Forestry. Matt received his bachelor’s degree in forest management from Northern Arizona University in 1990 and joined the Virginia Department of Forestry in 1992.

Matt is the area forester for Caroline County. He has provided advice regarding harvest and thinning, planting, spraying and other timber management practices. Matthew goes above and beyond the call of duty, anticipating problems, assisting with both forest management and environmental issues. In addition, Matthew has been a key part in public outreach on behalf of the Department of Forestry and the Virginia Forestry Association. For example, he was last year’s recipient of the Tree Farm Committee’s Inspector of the Year. Also in connection with public outreach, Matthew has been a key member and the organizer of agency activities for a program known as Kids in the Woods that provides hands-on forestry and natural resource education to third graders.

VFA President John Burke said, “I would like for each of you to think about those hard-working area foresters who over the years have been important to your forestry activities.”

This award is meant to serve as a compliment to and recognition of all hard-working area foresters who have come through the Virginia Department of Forestry. So it is with great pleasure that VFA presented this award to Matthew Coleman, Caroline County’s area forester, on behalf of all other hard-working area foresters within the Commonwealth of Virginia.
CUB SCOUT DISTRICT DAY – POWHATAN COUNTY

Submitted by Sue Tennant, assistant regional forester, Region 4

A district-wide Cub Scout event was held in Powhatan County on August 18, 2007. The theme of the day’s activities was “On the Trail of John Smith.” David Schnake, forester in Powhatan, Doug Audley, forester in Amelia, and Sue Tennant, assistant regional forester in Region 4, used the Firewise trailer as a backdrop for discussions of fire and forest management with area Cub Scouts and their parents. Dave showed a DVD on John Smith’s explorations and discussed Smith’s observations and the differences to forests of today. Doug concentrated on tree species and identification of the tree species common to the Jamestown area, and Sue discussed the use of fire by native Americans in the early 1600s and by today’s forestry professionals.
THE FISCAL DIVISION REGROUPS
Submitted by Wanda Colvin, accounting manager, and Faye DiFazio, fiscal director, Fiscal Division

It’s not too often a team undergoes the kind of transition the fiscal division has the past few years with employees coming and going. With so many new faces, we thought an update on what everyone does might be in order. Feel free to call any of us at any time with questions. Things have finally settled down for us after a long stretch that began in 2002 when Wanda Colvin left VDOF for an opportunity in the banking industry. She returned to VDOF in 2006 and is our accounting manager. She is the one to talk to about corrections to budget printouts or just about any other fiscal topic! During this period of flux, Mary Frazier was helping out part time and about a year ago became a full-time employee handling sub-grant incentive payments, travel vouchers and many other duties.

Within the fiscal division, Angela Brown and Faye DiFazio have been here the longest; they both have 19 years with VDOF. Angela is the person who makes sure you are paid in a timely manner. She is the payroll accountant and her responsibilities have recently been expanded to include auditing the daily transactions of vendor invoices, travel vouchers and deposits. Faye is the fiscal director for the agency.

Neva Hodges came to us from the Department of Corrections and took over Mary Mead’s RT position in fiscal. The RT program alone is a full-time job with the incentive payments, the corresponding 1099s and the billings. Add in the other responsibilities expected of her and it is enough to make her wonder what she has gotten herself into! Neva is our representative on the Quality Work Group and has 29 years of state service.

If you don’t know anyone else in fiscal, you know Jessica Carroll; she is the one who pays the never-ending flow of bills that come into the central office and keeps up with the numerous rules regarding procurement. Whether it is an over-the-counter sale or an eVA order, or whether it is a credit card purchase or a vendor billing, it comes across her desk.

On the other hand, if you thought you knew everyone in fiscal, you may not know Gary Myers. He retired from state service a few years ago with 30 years experience. He is a CPA and was a state auditor for the Auditor of Public Accounts. He is helping us out temporarily with the agency-wide review of the control environment known as ARMICS. The amount of talent and knowledge Gary adds to our team is tremendous. He has his own accounting, tax and payroll services business, Blue Ridge Business Services.

The fiscal team welcomes Kelli Craddock and extends a fond farewell to Sylvia Jones who celebrated her second retirement from VDOF in October.

KELLI CRADDOCK
Kelli is the newest member of our group, and we are so glad to have her! She is our accountant and comes to us from the University of Virginia with seven years of state experience. Once settled in, Kelli will be the one to talk about grants. She and her husband have two young children and own a successful restaurant in Charlottesville, Rhett’s River Grill & Raw Bar. Welcome, Kelli!

Pictured front row (left to right) Wanda Colvin, Mary Frazier, Sylvia Jones, Angela Brown; Back Row (left to right) Kelli Craddock, Neva Hodges, Jessica Carroll, Faye DiFazio, Gary Myers)

Pictured (left to right) Wanda Colvin, Mary Frazier, Sylvia Jones, Angela Brown; Back Row (left to right) Kelli Craddock, Neva Hodges, Jessica Carroll, Faye DiFazio, Gary Myers)
BART PFAUTZ
Submitted by Dennis Gaston, assistant regional forester, Region 2

The Chesterfield County technician position has been something of a revolving door in the last 12 years. The last “casualty,” Jeff Darr, raised his own bar by moving into the forester position in Gloucester County. While Jeff and I thank Rich Reuse for training yet another employee to move on, we’re all glad to see a fresh recruit to fill in the technician spot.

Barton (Bart) Pfautz grew up in Batesville, IN. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC, in December 2005. Bart describes Warren Wilson College as a “work college” where all the students work roughly 15 hours each week and that pay goes directly toward their tuition. He worked on the natural resources crew, which meant that he helped manage the 600-acre property owned by the school.

He and his crew worked on such projects as removing storm damaged trees, pine thinning, horse logging, operating a portable sawmill, prescribed burning, controlling invasive plant species and building trails.

Bart met Jeannie at school. They’re married now, and in 2006, they moved to Virginia so that Jeannie could begin her career as a teacher. She teaches 9th grade at Powhatan High School.

Bart has a unique position now within the VDOF because the technician positions for both Chesterfield and Powhatan counties were combined. Not only does this give him two foresters to deal with, but it means there are two assistant regional foresters in two different regions after him. I doubt there are many VDOF employees that envy Bart in this respect. But, if there’s anyone who can handle it, given Bart’s easygoing demeanor, then he’s the one.

Bart has a deep appreciation for nature and likes being outside. He wants to be a part of the solution in conserving our natural resources and protecting the environment. He feels VDOF will help him to reach those personal goals. Bart likes reading, running, cooking, gardening and hiking. When you meet him, you’re going to like him. He has jumped into the position with both feet splitting his time between the two counties; and we’re excited about the potential that he shows.

SYLVIA JONES
Submitted by Wanda Colvin, accounting manager, and Faye DiFazio, fiscal director, Fiscal Division

Sylvia was VDOF’s former assistant chief fiscal officer when she retired in 1991. She has been helping out part time off and on ever since. Sylvia started as a wage employee while still in high school. She quickly worked herself up to a leadership role in the fiscal division and has had a huge influence on fiscal operations. Sylvia is a wonderful and patient teacher; she has trained all of us and many others over the years. She has always stressed setting a good example, following policies and procedures, and learning as much as you can about everything you can so that you are “ready” when opportunities present themselves. Thank you, Sylvia, for your dedicated service to VDOF!
Chuck Wright is our new forester for Goochland County in Region 3. He has a bachelor’s degree in forest management from West Virginia University. He has significant experience working as a consulting forester.

Kelli Craddock is our new accountant in the Fiscal Division. She has a bachelor’s in business administration from Mary Baldwin College and MBA from Liberty University. She comes to us from the University of Virginia.

Mitzi Lee is our new general services director. She has more than 20 years of state service and is coming to us from the Department of Health where she served as the real estate lease manager. Mitzi previously spent eight years with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Ryan Hewitt is our new FIA Forrester for the southwest Virginia area. Ryan holds a bachelor’s in Forest Resource Management from VA Tech. He has experience with the VA Dept. of Agriculture and US Forest Service.

Sandy Mills, program support technician for Region 3, is our new program support technician for the Resource Protection Division at Central Office.

Mike Santucci, former forester for Madison County in Region 3, is our new forest conservation specialist in Region 3. He is working out of the Region 3 office in Charlottesville. Congratulations, Mike!

Jack Kaufman, forester for Chesapeake/ Virginia Beach in Region 1, moved into the forester position for Madison County in Region 3.

Sandra Stephens, program support technician for Region 3, has been promoted into the administrative staff assistant position for Region 3.

Farewell & Best Wishes

Eddie Embrey, technician for Alleghany, Bath and Craig counties in Region 5, has decided to retire after 33 years of dedicated service to DOF and the Commonwealth of Virginia. His last “official” day was October 31.

Alan Craft, technician for Alleghany, Bath and Craig counties in Region 5, has decided to retire after 35 years of dedicated service to DOF and the Commonwealth of Virginia. His last “official” day was October 31.

Darryl Pendris, forester for Prince William County in Region 3, left VDOF. Best wishes.

Jonathan Pine, technician for Culpeper County in Region 3, left VDOF to become a Virginia State Trooper. Best wishes!

Ralph Brubaker, equipment service and repair manager at Central Office, is retiring after 41 years of dedicated service to the Department of Forestry and the Commonwealth of Virginia. (He is our second longest serving active employee.) Ralph’s last official day is November 30.

Jim Clark, forester in Montgomery, Giles and Pulaski counties in Region 5, is hanging up his boots and retiring after 37 dedicated years of service to the Department of Forestry and the Commonwealth of Virginia. We wish him a long and happy retirement. His official last day was October 31.

Bruce Thacker, equipment repair technician for the State Forests and Augusta Forestry Center, is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service to the Department of Forestry and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Bruce’s last official day is November 30.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kevin Keith, forester, Henry County, Region 5, and wife Tabitha welcomed Mitchell Avery Keith on October 4. He weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces. Mitchell has a sister, Madelyn, who is two years old.

Anna Cahoon, RC&D forester in Region 1, and husband, Chris, welcomed a new daughter into their family. Phoebe Calista Cahoon was born September 25. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces. Mom, dad and baby Phoebe are all doing great.

Shannon Lawrence, part-time program support technician for Resource Protection, and husband, Adam, welcomed a new daughter into their family, which made Amy Ricotta, procurement manager in the General Services Division, a new grandmother. Adelai Love Elisabeth Lawrence was born September 21. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

Sara Shullaw, GIS program manager in the Resource Information Division, and husband, Brian, welcomed two new sons into their family. Harold Hyland and Calvin Christoffer were born September 26. Harry weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces, and Calvin weighed 6 pounds, 12½ ounces.

Woody Roberts, retired in 1991 from Region 5, passed away October 27 at the age of 70. Our condolences to his wife, Marie, and family.

Pete Harris, retired in 1992, passed away September 28. Pete began his career with VDOF in 1967 and was the mechanic in Region 4. In the early part of his career, he also worked in the State Forest. Pete is also Wayne Huskey’s brother-in-law.

H.C. Kiser, retired from Washington and Smyth counties in Region 6, passed away after a long struggle with cancer.

Pickett Upshaw, technician in King William County, Region 2, and wife Joni lost their son, Gary, November 1 at age 31 to cancer.

Denny York, retired technician from Smythe County in Region 6, died August 14 at age 65. He retired in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Ami, and daughter, Amy.

Denny McCarthy, assistant regional forester for Region 5, lost his younger brother, Ryan, in August.

Alan Craft, technician for Alleghany, Bath and Craig counties in Region 5, lost his mother, Ellen Marie Craft, in August at age 76.

Donna Hoy, administrative staff specialist in Central Office, lost her brother-in-law, Donnie Hoy (husband Ronnie’s twin brother) August 21 at age 50.

Jim Bowen, retired assistant state forester, lost his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Lockhart, September 27 at the University of Virginia Hospital. She was 84 years old.

Virginia Dishner, retired secretary for Region 5, died September 20. Virginia served as a secretary in the Region 5 office from 1952 until her retirement in 1983. She was known for her friendly hello’s, rapid-fire radio transmissions and devotion to her duties. For the past few years, Virginia made her home in Kingsport, TN.

Carrington Newsome, equipment service and repair technician in Region 2, lost his sister in October.

Danny Roberts, technician for Spotsylvania County in Region 2, lost his father, Carl Roberts Jr., in October.

David Milby, assistant regional forester for Region 2, lost his mother October 11. She lived in Florida.
Recent nautical events, such as Fleet Week in New York City, the tall ships race off of Rhode Island, and the voyages of the Godsspeed replica in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, reminds this old Navy veteran of the greatest tall ship that ever sailed the ocean waves and America’s most famous fighting ship.

The USS Constitution (better known as “Old Ironsides”) turned 210 years old October 21, 2007. And she (all ships are female) is still on active duty – the oldest commissioned vessel in the US fleet. The USS Constitution was the flagship of the US Navy in the War of 1812. In its heyday, the Constitution never lost a battle, never was boarded by the enemy and never had a cannonball penetrate her sides in 48 battles.

The keel, a full 160 feet long, is comprised of the original four white oak timbers, each one 30 inches thick by 18 inches wide. The keel was laid in 1794 in the Edmund Hart Shipyard in Boston’s North End neighborhood. The original cost to build this 1,567-ton frigate comprised of 1812. In its heyday, the Constitution never lost a battle, never had a cannonball penetrate her sides in 48 battles.

The keel, a full 160 feet long, is comprised of the original four white oak timbers, each one 30 inches thick by 18 inches wide. The keel was laid in 1794 in the Edmund Hart Shipyard in Boston’s North End neighborhood. The original cost to build this 1,567-ton frigate was $302,718, and took three years to complete.

After being reported unworthy in 1830, the Constitution was condemned to be broken up. But a poem by Oliver Wendell Holmes entitled “Old Ironsides” aroused such popular feelings that money was appropriated to rebuild her. Her long career at sea ended in December 1881, and she was returned to her birthplace in Boston for her centennial celebration in 1897. Her timbers rotting away, Constitution was again threatened by destruction in 1905, but once again public sentiment came to her rescue. The Constitution was partially restored with funds donated by Americans, much of it raised by school children. Congress appropriated matching funds.

The USS Constitution has been permanently home ported at Boston’s Charlestown Navy Yard since 1954. Interestingly, Boston Harbor is an ideal place for the ship because, according to a report of the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, “The Boston area is ideal for decay avoidance in that the salt content is high, there is freedom from shipworm damage, and the temperature is unfavorable for decay much of the year.” Despite the ideal temperature and water conditions, the ever-aging USS Constitution still experiences weakening decay, requiring the replacement of a variety of oaken parts constituting the ship. Anyone who lives 210 years is sure to need a “tuck here and a lift there.”

Wood for War… This ship, an American institution, is a tribute to the craftsmanship of her day. A mixture of today’s technology and yesterday’s workmanship is keeping this “floating forest” in tip-top shape. Because she was designed to sail into battle against superior forces, no expense was spared during the construction of Old Ironsides. The hull is nearly two feet thick (21 inches) and constructed in three layers: the outer of white oak, laid horizontally from bow to stern (front to back for you landlubbers), ranges from 4½ to seven inches thick; the inner frame of live oak, laid vertically from keelson to bulwark, ranges from eight to 18 inches thick; and the inside frame, laid horizontally, of Douglas-fir 4½ to seven inches thick and white oak approximately 4½ inches thick.

If working with the existing wood on the ship poses special problems, the task of finding replacement wood can be even more exasperating. Today, finding the right sizes and shapes of timbers to use in the maintenance and restoration of the ship requires forethought and imagination. Woods used in the original construction and subsequent preservation of Old Ironsides constitute a virtual forest. Among them are:

**Live Oak:** The most difficult to find in the sizes required for the ship. This stately oak grows short, squat and gnarly, with lots of limbs in response to the harsh environment of the southeastern coast, especially South Carolina, Georgia and its barrier islands. Trees have been recovered in the wake of Hurricane Hugo (1989) in South Carolina; as a result of land cleared for construction throughout the Southeast, and as a donation from International Paper Company. It was used for framing, curved beams, breasthooks in the cutwater...

continue on page 8
area, pin rails and fife rails (see link to nautical terms at the end of this article). This tree’s use in the ship’s construction is mentioned in our new Tree Identification Guide.

**Locust:** Treenails (pronounced trennels) or trunnels of locust (and of oak) were used to hold together many of the ship’s wooden parts, such as the exterior planking to the ribs, or futtocks. The original locust treenails were from Massachusetts, and today’s replacements are from locust grown locally.

**Douglas-fir:** The original three masts of the ship were made of white pine from Maine. Due to its relative abundance, Douglas-fir is the wood of choice for the replacement masts. Each of the masts is made from four separate pieces of Douglas-fir, trunneled together with locust pins (the masts are about 100 feet in length).

**Lignumvitae:** Extremely hard wood from South America, even more durable than live oak. Used for sheaves, wooden blocks, belaying pins and dead-eyes, which are all components of the rigging.

**Longleaf Pine:** The ship’s original beams and decks were made from South Carolina longleaf pine. Today, longleaf pine has been supplemented by the more readily available Douglas-fir for restoration work.

**White Oak:** The long, straight grain of white oak makes it superb for long planking; when cannonballs bounced off the hull of the ship, white oak provided the shield. The closed-cell structure (tyloses) renders it decay-resistant. Used for longitudinal exterior-hull planking, inside planking wherever wood must be severely bent, and near the keelson, due to its decay-resistant nature.


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

The deadlines are as follows:

- **Spring Issue** -- February 1, 2008
- **Summer Issue** -- May 1, 2008
- **Fall Issue** -- August 1, 2008
- **Winter Issue** -- November 1, 2008

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 11/2007