

# FORESTRY News



A Newsletter of the Virginia Department of Forestry

Winter 2008

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

## GOVERNOR KAINE VISITS CO;

### Thanks all VDOF Employees for Service

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

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine kept his promise to visit VDOF's Central Office, spending part of the morning November 13 addressing staff and listening to presentations about many of the various programs and activities VDOF conducts.

"It was a great morning," said State Forester Carl Garrison. "Governor Kaine had tried to make a trip to see us once before but, unfortunately, the visit got cancelled. He promised us then that he would be sure to bring his entire Cabinet with him when he was able."

The Governor, his Cabinet Secretaries and several other officials arrived at CO at 9 a.m. Following a welcome by Mr. Garrison and an introduction by Secretary of Forestry and Agriculture Robert Bloxom, the Governor delivered a 10-minute speech that touched on a variety of topics. Several times during his remarks, the Governor offered his thanks and appreciation for the many good works performed by VDOF employees.

"He was very complimentary and sincere in his praise of Agency employees," said Water Quality Program Manager Matt Poirot. "And it was a great opportunity for us to tell him one-on-one what we do in our many program areas."



*John Pemberton, FIA, and John Scrivani, resource information, demonstrate a field data unit to Governor Kaine.*

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Carl Garrison III, State Forester

Janet Muncy, Editor

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## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FORESTER

Carl Garrison



There are many of you out there like me who really enjoy having a printed version of Forestry News to hold in your hands while reading about the many good things going on in our Agency. And I had hoped it wouldn't come to this, but the state budget cuts have forced us to prepare and deliver Forestry News in an electronic format. I knew it was only a matter of time before we would have to go this way, but I was holding out hope that it wouldn't be too soon. With the economic situation continuing to decline and cuts having to be made in every area, we knew shifting to an electronic format was the right thing to do. I trust that you will continue to enjoy the stories about your friends and colleagues in VDOF; you will just have to do so in front of your computer screen.

The budget cuts we've had to make have forced us to change many of the things to which we've grown accustomed. Unfortunately, more cuts are likely heading our way in the near future. The next round of budget reductions will hurt even more than the ones we've already faced. Just today, the Senate Finance Committee released its report on what it thinks the Commonwealth's deficit might be. It is estimating that another \$700 million to \$1 billion will have to be cut in addition to the previously announced \$2.5 billion reduction. Obviously, we are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.

The Executive Leadership team is hard at work looking at everything we do and how we do it so that if additional cuts are mandated, we can deal with them the best way possible. The sad reality is that we operate on the thinnest of margins already. We don't have hidden pots of money in reserve, so any cuts that must be made have to come from the things that we do in service to the citizens of the Commonwealth. As always, I welcome your suggestions as to how we should handle any additional reductions that come our way.

On a positive note, the Agency and its employees really shined during a visit by the Governor and his Cabinet on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Governor Kaine used a substantial portion of his remarks to thank VDOF employees for the good work that you do and for risking your lives to protect Virginians and their property. We couldn't have made a better impression on him and the entire Cabinet. And the timing of his visit was most fortuitous in that, as he looks to make additional cuts, fresh on his mind will be the many good things we do for our citizens. I can only surmise that he won't want to cut our budget any further. Let's all hope that is the case.

Thanks for all that you do and for maintaining a positive, can-do attitude in spite of all the uncertainty around us.

## GOVERNOR KAINE VISITS CENTRAL OFFICE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

When he concluded his address, the Governor toured eight exhibits that were set up in the main hallway, stopping at each for a short briefing by employees from the specific programs, including Urban & Community Forestry; Forest Resource Management; Water Quality; Forest Resource Information; Land Conservation; Forest Protection; Human Resources, and Conservation Education. Mr. Garrison then gave the Governor a quick demonstration of IFRIS (Integrated Forest Resource Information System).

The Governor and his Cabinet were then treated to a demonstration of the Agency's bloodhound program. Mecklenburg County Forestry Technician Brad Whittington and his dog, Summer, did a mini arson tracking exercise. To the delight of the crowd, Summer quickly and correctly identified her "suspect."

The group wrapped up its visit with a quick stop in the Virginia Interagency Coordination Center before heading out to Staunton for the rest of the Central Virginia Cabinet Day.

Mr. Garrison expressed his appreciation to all those who helped make the visit a success.

*Governor Kaine was very interested in how many years of service folks have. Rita Moore, human resources, advises she has 35 years.*



*Carl Garrison introduces Janet Muncy, public information, to Governor Kaine, who was very much a fan of our calendar and publications.*



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Janet Muncy, Editor

As you all know, we have been faced with severe budget cuts over this past year. However unfortunate these tight times are, we must work together to be as efficient as possible to still accomplish our goals. I am proud to say that the Forestry News still receives many compliments from both within VDOF and outside the agency. This is thanks to all of you who take time to submit articles. Our readers and I thank you for your continuing support.

Due to recent cuts, we no longer can fund printing for Forestry News. The good news is that I intend to continue producing the News; it will just be distributed electronically. This doesn't affect you in submitting articles; we will publish four times per year as we have done in the past, only you will receive the News electronically.

Of course, you have noticed a design change in the Forestry News. Since we are starting a new method of distribution, it seemed an appropriate time to change things up and start with a fresh new design, which is more suited to an electronic format. I hope you enjoy the new design, and keep those submissions coming. The next deadline is February 1, 2009 for the spring issue.

## CCC MEMORIAL AND STATUE DEDICATION

*Submitted by Joe Lehnen,  
forester, Shenandoah, Page and  
Warren counties, Central Region*

On May 17, 2008, a Civilian Conservation Corps Memorial plaza was dedicated at the newly constructed Lee Ranger District office of the USDA Forest Service in Edinburg, Virginia. The CCC Memorial Plaza serves as a reminder to all of the hard work, the impressive accomplishments and the incredible dedication to conservation of the "boys of the CCC."

More than 100 citizens, local officials and representatives from the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia Department of Forestry attended the dedication ceremony. Joe Lehnen, forester for Shenandoah, Page and Warren counties, represented the VDOF at this ceremony.

The CCC Memorial Plaza features a paver wall containing granite monuments to both past and living CCC Boys who dedicated many years of their lives to bringing forth a new conservation movement in America. The wall also includes pavers of supporting agencies, including the Virginia Department of Forestry, which wanted to extend a gratitude of thanks to the Civilian Conservation Corps for all of the hard work they gave to improving and protecting the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Watching over the plaza area is "Iron Mike," a bronze, life-size statue symbolizing the boys of the CCC. The "Iron Mike" statue program is a nationwide initiative that was begun many years ago to symbolize the hard work and can-do attitude of the average CCC enrollee.



*Joe Lehnen  
poses with  
"Iron Mike."*



*CCC Memorial in Edinburg, Virginia.*



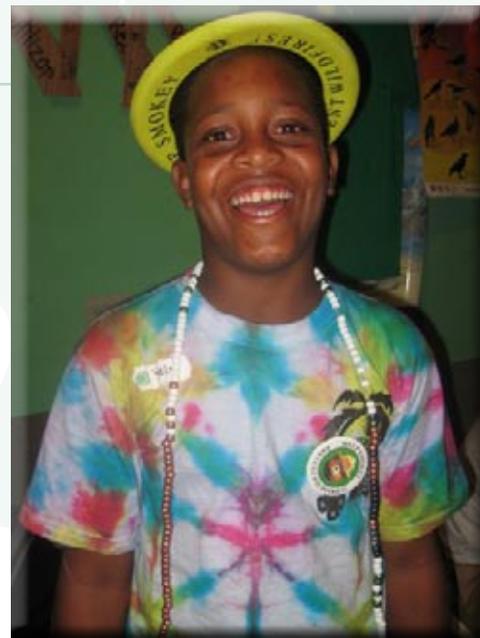
*Joe Lehnen with the Virginia Department of Forestry  
paver.*

## SMOKEY GOES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*Submitted by Joe Lehnen, forester, Shenandoah, Page and Warren counties, Central Region*

For the second year in a row, the Woodstock VDOF office provided Smokey Bear fire prevention materials to a team of local 4-H youth who traveled to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic for an environmental education and outreach program. A total of 12 4-H'ers from Shenandoah County, Bath County and Highland County teamed with Dominican Republic teens to conduct 4-H Environmental Day Camps for the younger children of that island country. The Virginia 4-H group also did some painting at a local school and landscaping at another public facility.

Shenandoah County 4-H'ers took the lead in developing this international environmental education outreach program in 2006. The local 4-H kids conduct fund raisers and seek donations for this very worthwhile program. This locally developed environmental education outreach program has won regional and national awards through the Extension Professionals Association. The VDOF is proud to be a sponsor of these award-winning efforts!



## HUNTING AND FISHING EXPO

*Submitted by Bill Miller, assistant regional forester, Western Region*

Many times finding an appropriate audience for mass communication of Department of Forestry services is challenging. However, this past September, the VDOF participated in the Hunting and Fishing Expo at the Higher Education Center in Abingdon.

The Department set up two displays inside and one display outside at the Expo. The main display featured information concerning the state forest system. With the newly acquired Channels property, many questions were generated by the hunting and nonhunting public. The second indoor display featured kid's activities and Smokey materials. At the outdoor exhibit, the kids aimed backpack water pumps at targets and fired away.

The Expo attracted more than 2,000 guests, not including children. According to Kim Steward, public relations and marketing specialist with the Higher Education Center, the comments from the general public were absolutely positive. One couple even stated, "This is better than Bass Pro Shop."

Special thanks go out to Chad Austin, Brian Ledford, Jana Maynard, Chris Owens, Randy Short, Ed Stoots, Chris Sullivan and Michael Salyer for making the Department's showing a success.



*Ed Stoots, regional forester, Western Region, and Smokey conduct an interview with a local radio station.*

## BLUE RIDGE WILDLAND FIRE STRIKE TEAM

### Pack Test Time Again

*Submitted by David Edwards,  
technician, Carroll and Grayson  
counties, Western Region*

The BRWFST (Blue Ridge Wildland Fire Strike Team) was organized in the fall of 2006 with 14 members and, as of today, the crew has grown to 36 members. The crew started and still resides in the Galax area of the Western Region. Every time there has been any training available, several members attend for advancement and to make the crew more self sufficient. A great deal of experience has been gained in the past two years from in-state and out-of-state deployment. Members of the crew strive on perfection and personal pride. Members have attended the Interagency Wildland Fire Academy, formerly held at Fort Pickett and now at Longwood University, and participated twice in the Southwest Virginia Fire Academy. The crew is trained and equipped with PPE and suppression equipment, and they are willing to respond in a moment's notice. They are available to anyone in the state upon request from Central Office or the Abingdon office. A 10- to 20-man crew can be in route within two hours or less of the request. At this time, all members are from Carroll and Grayson counties, so you can figure on the response time from there. A lot of time and hard work has gone into the development of this crew to get it where it is today. Take advantage of the resources that are available and use them wisely. Just remember "If you don't use it, you lose it."



## MADISON'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

*Submitted by Jack Kauffman, forester, Greene and Madison counties, Central Region*

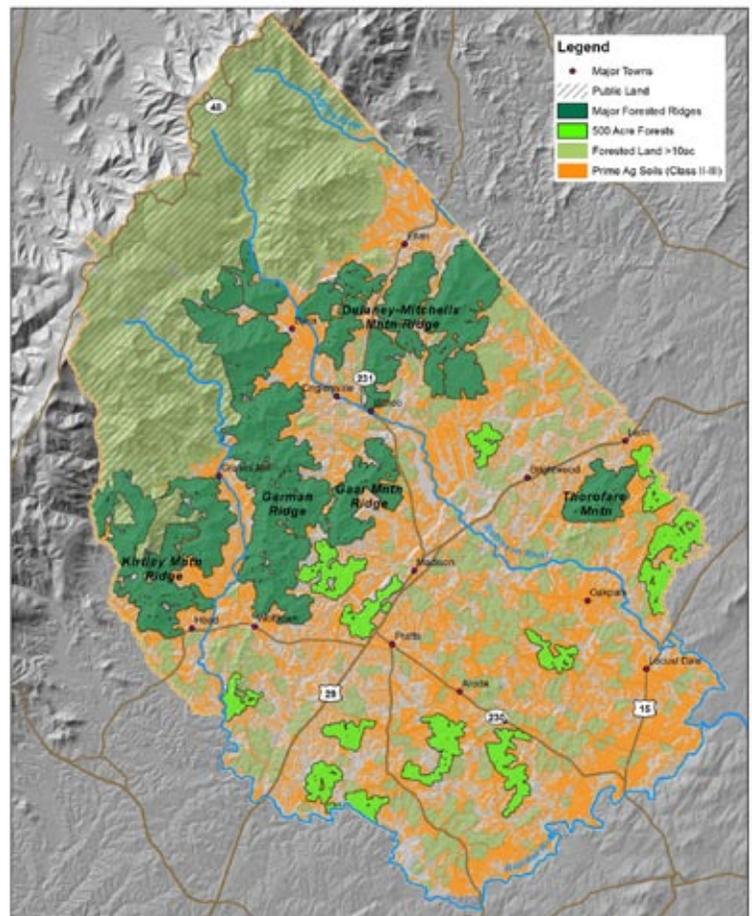
Karen Firehock presented the Madison County Planning Commission with a Green Infrastructure Plan on October 15, 2008. The need for such a plan was identified several years prior as Madison County was completing its comprehensive plan revision. Fortunately, Mike Santucci, who, at the time, was the forester for Madison, attended a workshop where Firehock presented the topic of a green infrastructure planning. The two presented the concept to the county administrator, Lisa Robertson.

Green infrastructure planning entails inventorying green assets, such as large forests, farms and wetlands; identifying opportunities for their protection and/or restoration, and developing a coordinated strategy to channel development and redevelopment to the most appropriate locations. Green infrastructure planning seeks to develop in the most appropriate places while conserving vital forests, farms, wildlife habitats and water resources that we all depend on for healthful lifestyles and strong economies.

After receiving a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program, work began in the fall of 2007. Students from the University of Virginia School of Architecture began a review of Madison's forest, water, agricultural and historical resources as a part of a planning course taught by Firehock and Alisa Hefner.

One of the major hurdles to completing this project was that Madison County had not utilized digital mapping tools in the past, and a great deal of the students' time was spent gathering various sources of data and maps. At the completion of the fall semester, it was evident that more work would be needed to produce a product that would meet the needs of the Planning Commission. Firehock was able to obtain additional funding from a private foundation to complete the project and provide the product to Madison County at no cost.

The Green Infrastructure report includes input received from the County Planning Commission; county landowners and farmers; general public, and other county staff. The technical team also consulted numerous data sources and maps. The



Madison County:  
Forest Assets and Prime Agricultural Soils

September 2008  
0 0.8 3.2 Miles

## FIELD TRIP TO THE CHANNELS

*Submitted by Zach Olinger,  
forest management and education  
specialist, Mathews State Forest*



On October 23, a group of students and their professor from Emory and Henry College visited the Channels State Forest, and made the hike up to the Great Channels. The class is an upper level wildlife monitoring and management class. The purpose of the trip was to focus on larger-scale habitat management, and according to E & H professor Steven Hopp, "the Channels is an excellent local example of the kind of management project we will be discussing." On the way up the mountain, the group ascended close to 2,000 feet to an elevation above 4,200 feet at the old lookout tower that sits on the rocks above

the Great Channels. Along the way, there was much beneficial discussion, with specific focus on how forest type changes with elevation and site, as well as the specific management goals and methods of our state forests. The hike was led by Tom Zaebst and Zach Olinger of Virginia Department of Forestry, and Steve Lindeman of The Nature Conservancy, so the students were able to hear different perspectives. Everyone appreciated the stunning views from the crest of the mountain and exploring the massive sandstone formations that are the namesake of our newest state forest. To add to the trip, the group enjoyed beautiful weather and peak foliage colors.

## MADISON'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7...

report to the county includes the installation of all the data layers gathered onto county computers for future use – that can help propose where and how future growth will occur and the impacts of land-use decisions.

The hard work of Firehock, her students and colleagues has provided tools to Madison County that can help the county achieve a number of the goals outlined in the comprehensive plan, including "Maintain agriculture and forestry as the primary land use in the county" and "Maintain agriculture and forestry as leading industries in the county in terms of gross revenue and employment." With this work completed, Karen's team has turned its attention to urban forestry issues in Lynchburg and a similar project in New Kent County.

For more information about green infrastructure or a copy of the report, please visit: [www.gicnic.org](http://www.gicnic.org).

## WHO WAS JUDGE JOHN PAUL?

*Submitted by Chad Stover, technician, Rockingham County, Central Region*

The Paul State Forest is a 175-acre hardwood forest in southwest Rockingham County. It was given as a gift to the State by a deed dated April 2, 1962, by Judge John Paul. It was part of a larger parcel that was farmed by the Paul family for generations. As part of the gift, Judge Paul ensured the continued use of the property for forestry research and demonstration. This was specified in the deed "...to be used for such purposes as experimentation in or demonstration of approved forestry practices, or for and such other purpose or use as the grantee may determine consistent with its preservation as a wooded area. By acceptance of this conveyance the grantee agrees to the above conditions..."

Judge Paul was born in Harrisonburg, VA, December 9, 1883. His father, John Paul Sr., served as District Judge Western District of Virginia, until his death. Judge Paul (Jr.) attended the Virginia Military Institute; graduated in 1903, and received his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1906. After leaving UVA, he was admitted to the bar and began a private practice in Harrisonburg. In 1911, he was elected as a Virginia state senator and served until 1915. He was in the U.S. Army until 1919, returning to the state Senate until 1922. Along his impressive career, he also served as: city attorney, Harrisonburg 1919-1923; U.S. Representative 1922-1923; Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General 1923-1924, and the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia 1929-1932.

On December 15, 1931, he was nominated by President Hoover as Judge, U. S. District Court, Western District of Virginia and was confirmed by the Senate in January 1932. He served as Chief Judge from 1948-1958 and held senior status in 1958 and served until his death in 1964.

Judge Paul sat for many cases through the years, two of which garnered much attention. In 1956, he gave the first desegregation order in Virginia when he ordered an end to segregation in Charlottesville schools; this was followed by similar rulings in Warren County. He also heard, at the time, the longest trial in Virginia history when presiding over a Franklin County liquor "conspiracy" case. It ended with 20 convictions. Some insight into his disposition as a judge can be found in the article concerning his death in the Daily News-Record stating "...described as being a judge who tempered justice with mercy when he felt that that course was justified. Those defendants, it was added, who were careless with the truth before the judge could expect little leniency."

Judge Paul is still talked about in our community. He is often referred to with a somewhat "celebrity" status. Many stories about him can be heard from some of the older generation



who remember seeing him and his "big black sedan" traveling the local roads around Ottobine. His two nephews, Seymour and John Paul, still reside on the original Paul Farm; John Paul is the Presiding Judge for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham General District Court.

Federal Judicial Center. Judges of the United States- Paul, John Jr. Retrieved September 3, 2009 from <http://www.fjc.gov/servlet/tGetInfo?jid=1852>

Unknown. "Judge Paul Dies at His Residence." Daily News-Record February, 14 1964, Vol. 67, No. 114.

## SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY

*Adam Cumpston, forester, Russell County, Western Region*

The 2008 Southwest Virginia Wildland Fire Academy was held September 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at the 4-H Center in Abingdon. The academy was a success in training firefighters in various aspects of wildland fire. Courses offered at the academy this year included S-130/190/I-100 Firefighter Training/Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior/Introduction to Incident Command System; S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operation, and S-230 Single Resource Boss. All of the courses offered were filled to capacity with 29 students in S-130/190/I-100; 19 students in S-212, and nine students in S-230. In addition to classroom learning, many of the classes had the opportunity to get some hands-on experience at the Channels State Forest. This hands-on experience was critical for activities, such as fireline construction and chainsaw operations.



Students in the academy came from all over Virginia to participate. There were also students from other states, including one who drove from Myrtle Beach, SC, to attend. A variety of agencies were represented by students and instructors including the Virginia Department of Forestry; USDA Forest Service; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and many local fire departments. Students and instructors who were traveling were lodged at the 4-H Center. The staff at the 4-H Center also provided three meals a day for students and instructors. The Virginia Department of Forestry, through a Fire Preparedness grant received from the National Fire Plan, paid for the lodging and meal expenses for fire department personnel and Virginia Fire Crew members. Thanks to: John Miller and his staff for covering supplies and costs; all of the instructors, and everybody who helped with planning for making the academy a success.



## WESTERN REGION EMPLOYEES ASSIST WITH COMMUNITY PROJECT

*Submitted by Chris Sullivan, assistant regional forester, Western Region*

Not the heat of the dog days of summer, nor a torrent of tourists on bicycles, could keep VDOF employees Randy Short, Bill Miller, Ed Stoots and Chris Sullivan from lending a helping hand to the Virginia Creeper Trail Club. The Virginia Creeper is a shared-use trail (mountain biking, hiking, equine) connecting Abingdon, VA, with the Virginia-North Carolina border one mile east of Whitetop Station. The name – Virginia Creeper – refers to the steam engines that labored up the mountain grades with heavy loads of lumber, iron ore, supplies and passengers on this old railway. The Virginia Creeper ran its last train March 31, 1977. The old rail bed lay dormant for nearly a decade before visionaries developed the trail. There are a total of 47 trestles on the trail and the total length of the trail is 34 miles.

The club is a local, private nonprofit whose purpose is to maintain, promote and preserve the Virginia Creeper Trail corridor and to help develop and conduct public education programs regarding the scenic and natural qualities of the Virginia Creeper Trail. The Creeper Trail is considered a “destination trail” (one of the key features attracting people to an area) and provides significant social and economic influence to the community. An estimated 200,000 people use the trail each year. Folks use the trail for lots of different reasons. However, according to a study conducted by The University of Georgia, USDA Forest Service, with assistance from the club, it was found that the overwhelming majority of visitors listed health and the opportunity to view nature as their greatest personal benefits from trail use.

As you can imagine, with all that trail use comes a large amount of trail maintenance. A decrease in trail conditions would result in a decrease in trail benefits to the community. The club volunteers put thousands of man-hours into trail maintenance and improvements every year. The aforementioned VDOF employees added a few hours to this year’s total by helping out with the re-decking of two trestles.

First, all the old decking had to be removed. Next, the nails were removed from the boards and they were laid back down so trail traffic would not be affected. The old boards were then removed again as the new boards were laid down and nailed in. One trestle the group worked on was curved. Occasional breaks were taken and futile attempts at higher math lead to much discussion on proper alignment of the boards throughout the curve. With the help of an old-timer who had been around long enough to help install the original boards, it was deduced that eye-balling it was good enough. Another old timer on the crew was Lawrence Dye. Lawrence is famous in the Highlands because, since



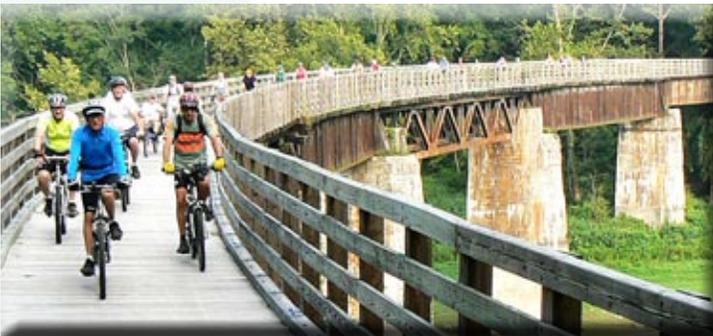
1990, he has ridden his bike 135,000 miles on the trail. That is roughly equal to five and a half trips around the world at the equator. Oh yeah, Lawrence is 76 years old.

While the work was hard and resulted in many sore muscles for the VDOF crew, it was quite satisfying to look back across those completed trestles.

## GREENWAYS AND TRAILS OFFER MANY BENEFITS TO VIRGINIANS

*Submitted by Randy Short, forester, Washington, Lee and Scott counties, Western Region*

On October 24, 2008, I attended a conference sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance (SAGA) concerning the economic and health benefits of greenways and trails. The purpose of the conference was to build support for local greenways and trails and to get a regional conversation going and spur support for interconnected trail projects. The attendees included both private and public sector employees from Tennessee and Virginia. Many of these ideas and conversations involved the construction of trails through the forest land of southwest Virginia. U.S. Representative Rick Boucher, who is the Ninth Congressional District representative, opened the meeting with a speech highlighting the various trails in the southwest Virginia region, including the famous 34-mile-long Virginia Creeper Trail, which runs from Abingdon to Whitetop Mountain, one of the highest peaks in Virginia. These various trails Representative Boucher described are an economic boom to southwest Virginia and the surrounding area. This is all part of an ecotourism boom in this part of the Commonwealth.



As mentioned, the conference focused on the links between trails and greenways to better health and a stronger economy. It has been shown through scientific studies that those who use local trails and greenways on a regular basis have significantly lower health problems overall. Also, towns which market the local trails and greenways are able to attract more businesses and also lure major companies to the area. This results in a stronger economy, not only through tourism, but also better paying jobs, which may not otherwise be available.

There was also discussion of potential trail projects in southwest Virginia. The projects aren't limited to walking or biking. There is the Southwest Virginia Recreational Authority, established by the legislature and signed by the Governor, which was formed to determine the feasibility of a multi-use trail through the coalfields of southwest Virginia. This multi-use trail would be similar to West Virginia's Hatfield and McCoy trail system. This network of trails has led to an economic boom in some of West Virginia's most economically depressed areas. The Southwest Virginia Recreational Authority hopes to have the first trail opened by 2011 and the entire trail system opened by 2012. These trails would run through private land, particularly land owned by energy companies.

One thing that all the trails and greenways have in common is the use of natural resources and scenic beauty to attract users both locally and from other areas. This specifically involves our forested landscapes here in southwest Virginia. The trails and greenways offer peace and solitude not found in urban landscapes. This is in large part due to the abundance of forest land and trees found along these trails and corridors. This makes these forests invaluable in terms of health, economics and other indirect uses, which cannot be measured monetarily or physically. The benefits derived from the expansive trails located throughout Virginia are yet another reason to properly manage and protect Virginia's forests for future generations.



## TRUE PLANNING

*Submitted by Robert C. Suydam, forest conservation specialist, Henrico County, Eastern Region*

Virginia has established itself as a leader in land conservation by being one of only two states nationwide that has transferable state income tax credits as incentives for landowners who are interested in protecting their land from development. This reflects the sentiments of most citizens as the 2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey revealed that 95 percent of Virginians said it was either "important" or "very important" to protect natural and open space land. However, development over the last several decades has challenged many localities to not only influence how development occurs, but more importantly where it occurs. Virginia is losing 27,000 acres of forest land each year and this trend will likely persist as it is predicted that the Commonwealth will lose more forest and agricultural land in the next 40 years than we have since the founding of Jamestown. To address this, Virginia has authorized localities to establish Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs. These programs can provide significant planning tools to localities interesting in having the most influence over where development occurs while protecting forest and agricultural land, and creating balance between development and conservation in Virginia.

Arguably, influencing how development occurs is far easier than influencing where development occurs mainly because how development occurs is based on ordinance and regulation. Influencing where development occurs has been limited to a combination of three components: land-use zoning; limited public utilities, and the comprehensive plan. Because land is frequently rezoned to allow for greater density development and comprehensive plans are updated every five years, most localities have limited influence over where development occurs. The most decisive factor influencing where development occurs is directly related to that private discussion regarding the sale of the property between a landowner and a developer.

PDR programs in Virginia have been primarily funded at the local level, though some matching funds have been available through the Federal Farmland Protection Program (FPP) and, more recently, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS). Unlike a donated conservation easement in which the landowner is compensated through federal and state tax benefits, PDR programs pay the landowner for some or all of the value of the conservation easement. In most other regards, PDR easements are similar to voluntary conservation easements. The landowner maintains ownership of the property and all the rights inherent with it other than those development rights restricted by the easement. The result is a conservation easement whereby land is permanently protected from development.

TDR programs offer similar benefits as PDR, but without local funding or additional tax burden. In concept, TDR programs allow land development rights to be transferred or sold from "sending areas" to "receiving areas." Sending areas are usually forest land and other valuable open space deemed imperative to the community's need to preserve sensitive natural environments. Receiving areas are lands that the community has

designated appropriate for enhanced development. The result is a sending area parcel of land that is protected from future development. Localities can encourage the use of this program by creating dual-density zoning in the sending and receiving areas, and allowing greater density and development rights for land included in the TDR program, with lower density in land not in the program. The added incentive for localities is that this sale of development rights operates predominantly in the private market with no additional tax burden.

For these tools to operate most effectively, localities should have an inventory of their valuable natural land, including forest land and agricultural land. This can be achieved through a concept called green infrastructure planning. Green infrastructure planning is a process for identifying and inventorying valuable natural land assets. Used in conjunction with PDR and TDR, development can be guided to more appropriate locations. While it is certainly possible to administer either a PDR or TDR program,

## ROAD STABILIZATION ON THE CHANNELS STATE FOREST

*Submitted by Bill Miller, assistant regional forester, Western Region*

With the acquiring of the Channels State Forest, the Department of Forestry's staff in the Western Region now has an excellent place to conduct training exercises while at the same time enhancing a resource. The Channels State Forest is a unique place, but time and inattention have taken a toll on the Forest's road systems.

One of the most important attributes needed in the active management of any forest resource is access, and, although numerous roads exist on the Channels, years of road use without maintenance has reduced many of the roads to rutted out trails. Fortunately, the VDOF has the equipment and resources to rejuvenate many of the roads and close others.

In total, the local VDOF staff stabilized approximately seven miles of roads and closed more than three miles of severely eroded roads and trails over the summer. Gravel was applied to approximately one mile of the main road.

Special thanks go out to Riley Bruce, Randy Fleming, David Jones, H. F. Jones, Matt Kimbler, Brian Ledford, Chris Owens, Russell Proctor and Michael Salyer for their dozer work and gravel hauling efforts.



*One of the more eroded roads on the Forest.*



*Riley Bruce and Chris Owens work the VDOF's JD 450s in tandem.*

## TRUE PLANNING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13...

achieving their program goals could be more difficult without guidance based on green infrastructure.

We in Virginia know well that development often comes at the expense of land rich in natural resources, and often increases the financial burden on local governments by creating inefficient and costly public services and infrastructure. If local governments are serious about planning for where development occurs and protecting forest land and agricultural land, they will consider these powerful and influential planning tools. With them, localities can alter the pattern inefficient growth, and create balance between development and conservation in Virginia.

## GIRL SCOUT COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA HIGH FIVE FOR 95 CELEBRATION!

*Submitted by Kathleen Ogilvy, technician, Hanover County, Eastern Region*

The Girl Scout Commonwealth Council of Virginia celebrated its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary October 11, 2008 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. The Virginia Department of Forestry was on hand to help celebrate the anniversary by teaching the girls why trees are so important. The Girl Scouts tested their knowledge of forest products by taking a quiz. The girls were surprised to learn how many everyday products, such as toothpaste and gum, were made from trees. The Girl Scouts also learned how a tree grows and then were able to make their own tree cookie, using the PLT activity "my life as a tree." The Girl Scouts had the option of taking acorns home with them so they could plant their own oak trees and watch them grow. Handouts were also given to the troop leaders for the girls to earn forestry patches through the Maryland Council. More than 1,000 Girl Scouts attended this event.



*Karen Snape teaches the scouts how a tree grows.*



*Kathleen Ogilvy helps the scouts make their own tree cookie.*

## “LEAVES GROW TREES, AND RESOURCES GROW LEAVES”

*Submitted by Jerre Creighton,  
research manager, Resource  
Information Division*

As a member of the Forest Nutrition Cooperative, VDOF is entitled to members-only training workshops incorporating the latest research results and recommendations developed by the program. On Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a one-day workshop entitled “Enhancing Plantation Production and Value by Managing Site Resources” at the Buckingham Agricultural Center in Buckingham Court House, VA. Thirty-three VDOF employees attended, including county foresters; technicians; state forest staff, and staff from the Central Office.

The specific objective of this workshop was to provide an overview of forest productivity and resource availability as the basis for making site-specific silvicultural prescriptions that are cost effective and environmentally sustainable. The agenda included four main subject areas: 1) potential productivity; 2) silviculture and resource availability, and responses and prescription guidelines for both; 3) plantation establishment, and 4) established stands.

Dr. Tom Fox presented the workshop. He is associate professor of forestry at Virginia Tech, and serves as co-director of the Forest Nutrition Cooperative, an internationally recognized research and education program in productivity-silviculture-soils relationships. He also teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in silviculture, soils and ecophysiology and has authored numerous publications dealing with plantation productivity, forest nutrition, soils and silviculture. Tom travels extensively throughout the Americas providing the latest knowledge to forest land managers.

During the past decade, considerable advances have been made in our understanding of: 1) the ecological and physiological basis for productivity of forest plantations; 2) the important role that site resources, particularly nutrients, have in affecting productivity, and 3) the impact that silvicultural treatments have on resource availability. This knowledge has dramatically increased estimates of the potential productivity and value of plantations and has resulted in widespread adoption of intensive management practices.

It is now generally accepted that much of the variation in biomass and wood production can be accounted for by variation in light interception. Growth efficiency (that is, how efficiently trees use light to make wood) can vary due to differences in photosynthesis, respiration and partitioning to various biomass components (leaves, branches, roots or stem wood). Improved nutrient and water availability has been shown to increase photosynthetic efficiency and above-ground productivity proportionally more than below-ground productivity, i.e. adding those resources will grow more marketable wood instead of more roots.

What are the resource limitations to pine production in the Southeastern U.S.? It is clear that leaf area is low enough in many stands to restrict the capture of light, resulting in poor productivity. Recent analyses suggest that chronically low levels of available soil nutrients, principally nitrogen and phosphorus and additionally potassium and boron on loamy or sandy soils, are more limiting to growth in established stands than water.

The key to optimizing leaf area and growth efficiency and, thereby, achieving optimum value is the development and implementation of site specific silvicultural prescriptions.

*continued on page 17*

## HANOVER COUNTY TEACHERS LEARN ABOUT WATERSHEDS

*Submitted by Lisa Deaton, PLT coordinator, Public Information Division*

Hanover County teachers attended a workshop about Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences on October 13. They spent the morning in the woods at the New Kent Forestry Center learning how to use Project Learning Tree resources with Kathleen Ogilvy, VDOF technician in Hanover County, and myself. Then the Chesapeake Bay Foundation took them canoeing on the Chickahominy River to study the relationship between terrestrial ecosystems and aquatic ecosystems. The workshop was funded by a NOAA BWET grant from the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Environmental Education awarded to Linda Painter, a fifth grade teacher at Pearsons Corner Elementary School.



*Kathleen Ogilvy works with Hanover County teachers.*



*Canoeing on the Chickahominy River.*

## "LEAVES GROW TREES, AND RESOURCES GROW LEAVES," CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16...

Depending on the site and market conditions, silvicultural treatments may include planting high-quality seedlings or plantlets from the best families of the right species on a site where competing vegetation has been suppressed and where the soil may have been tilled and/or fertilized to improve early tree growth. Application of appropriate silvicultural treatments does not stop with plantation establishment. Optimum value production on most sites will only be possible with continued competing vegetation suppression; repeated nutrient additions; thinning, and possibly pruning – treatments that provide needed resources to the appropriate number of quality crop trees.

Nutrient limitations develop when a stand's potential nutrient use cannot be met by soil nutrient supply. Consideration of a stand's potential nitrogen use and nitrogen supply indicates that the two are out of phase from one another in southern pine stands. Typically, nitrogen availability is rather high following harvesting and site preparation as these disturbances provide suitable conditions for rapid decomposition and release of nutrients from the accumulated forest floor and slash material. At this time, demand for nutrients by crop trees is minimal owing to their small size, low leaf area, and lack of site occupancy. However, as leaf area development and stand growth accelerate the potential use of nutrients increases rapidly. At the same time, the supply of readily available nutrients is being rapidly sequestered within the accumulating forest floor and tree biomass.

Consequently, a stand's nutrient requirement for maximum growth generally outstrips soil supply (particularly for N) around the time of canopy closure.

All current VDOF employees have access to the extensive files of reports, workshops and decision-support tools available on the co-op's member-only Web site. The information there is very helpful both for identifying silvicultural options for individual landowner properties and for comparing the likely financial and biological results of different treatment options.

## FIRST MANAGED DEER HUNT ON CONWAY- ROBINSON

*Submitted by Joe Rossetti,  
forester, Fauquier and  
Rappahannock counties, Central  
Region*

In an effort begun by Darrel Pendris (former Prince William County forester) in early 2007, the Virginia Department of Forestry performed its first managed deer hunt on the Conway-Robinson State Forest, which is located just one mile east of Gainesville and Interstate 66 in Northern Virginia's Prince William County. A total of 20 deer were harvested November 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Manassas National Battlefield, which is adjacent to the State Forest, estimates that there are between 120 and 140 deer per square mile on its property. Due to the rapidly developing landscape and increasing human population, there are few places to hunt and very few hunters on those properties. The high deer population has caused many problems in the surrounding community and forest. Reduced tree regeneration; an unhealthy deer population; vehicle collisions, and complaints from residents of neighboring properties about damage to landscaping plants are all issues. During the growing season, a well-defined browse line develops quickly in the State Forest, and there are very few oak seedlings greater than six inches tall.



In an effort to reduce the deer population in the area and improve oak regeneration, Terry Lasher, assistant regional forester; Joe Rossetti, forester for Fauquier and Rappahannock counties; Jim McGlone, VDOF conservationist in Fairfax County, and Tom Zaebst, assistant state forest manager, called upon the expertise and experience of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF); US Fish and Wildlife Service; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Northern Virginia Park Authority, and the Fairfax County Park Authority for advice on beginning a program of managed hunts. These organizations have been successfully managing hunts in Northern Virginia for more than 10 years.

After listening to their experiences and suggestions, it was decided that 11 hunters and 20 alternates would be selected through a lottery to hunt on four Mondays – one each in the months of November, December, January and February. Through the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), the VDOF provided tags for antlerless deer, essentially allowing hunters to harvest as many as they desire.

"This first hunt was very much a success," said Joe Rosetti. "It is our hope that the other three hunts will be just as successful and that the program will continue and be expanded in the future."

Rosetti offered his thanks to Terry Lasher; Bryant Bays, VDOF forester in Prince William County; Chris Clayton, forestry technician in Prince William County; Jim McGlone; Tom Zaebst, and John Rohm, DGIF biologist, for their help getting this project underway.

For more information on DMAP, please see the DGIF Web site, and for more information on the hunts at Conway-Robinson, please visit the VDOF Web site.

## VDOF GETS A PAT ON THE BACK AT FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY

*Submitted by Jon Willoughby, technician, Botetourt and Roanoke counties, Western Region*

"Did you drive that dozer all the way here from Botetourt County?" asked a young child who was sitting in the operator's seat of the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) dozer. That is just one of many questions that Botetourt County Technician Jon Willoughby answered while representing VDOF on First Responders Day at Lakeside Baptist Church in Salem, VA.

Willoughby represented the VDOF in the third year of this event recognizing emergency personnel for their hard work, commitment and dedication. VDOF was one of 12 agencies represented, including the American Red Cross, Salem Police, Roanoke County Fire and Rescue, Salem Rescue Squad, Salem Fire and EMS, Virginia State Police, Roanoke Fire-EMS, Roanoke Police, Carilion Patient Transport Services (Lifeguard 10), Roanoke County Emergency Communications Center and Virginia Department of Transportation. Twenty-five pieces of equipment from various agencies were also on display for the public to view.

More than 700 people attended the event, including approximately 125 first responders and their families. Political representatives from the U.S. Congress and Commonwealth of Virginia included a representative from Congressman Bob Goodlatte's office, Virginia State Senator Ralph Smith, Virginia House of Delegates Representative Onzlee Ware and others from a variety of local offices in the region.

Besides sitting high up in the seat of a VDOF dozer, other highlights of the day included a visit from "Spot the Safety Dog" and the Roanoke Mounted Police Unit. Everyone knows there is nothing like getting a pat on the back for a job well done!



*Bob Boeren and Jon Willoughby taught more than 300 William Byrd Middle School students about our jobs and careers in forestry October 16, 2008.*



### WELCOME ABOARD

**Harvey Darden** is our new Virginia Beach/Chesapeake forester in the Eastern Region. Harvey comes to us with 29 years of experience as a forester. Most recently, he was the timberland transactions forester with International Paper.

**Bryant Bays** is our new Loudoun/Prince William County forester in the Central Region. Bryant received his bachelor's in forestry from Virginia Tech. You may remember him from when he served as an intern in the former Region 2 in 2006.

**Tony Taylor** is our new mechanic at the Central Office Mechanic Shop. He comes to us from Country Line Inc. in Amherst. He has more than 10 years' experience as a mechanic, including work with heavy equipment.

### NEW ARRIVALS!

Congratulations on your new addition to the family!

**Jessica Carroll**, fiscal technician at Central Office, gave birth to a baby girl June 10. Alexis weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

**Jim Jarvis**, Campbell County forester in the Central Region, and wife, Missy, welcomed a new baby boy to their family June 25. James Edward Jarvis weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces.

**Percy Ayers**, Central Office housekeeping supervisor, and wife, Ericka, welcomed a baby boy into their family. Brycen Jayvon Ayers was born August 22 weighing 9 pounds, 6 ounces. Baby Brycen, big brother Jerrick, Ericka and Percy are all doing great.

**Hylton Haynes**, and wife, Amy, welcomed a new baby girl into their family. Hylton is a former water quality engineer in Region 1. Katharine Lynne Haynes was born August 11, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

**Ben Parsons**, water quality specialist in the Western Region, and wife, Brigitte,

welcomed a set of twins to their family September 9. Audrey Lynn was born at 3:53 p.m.; weighing 7 pounds, 14.5 ounces. Benjamin Waid was born at 3:55 p.m.; weighing 8 pounds, 15.7 ounces. Mom, Dad, baby Audrey, baby Benjamin, and big sister "Gini" Leigh are doing great. Congratulations to the whole family!

**Amy Ricotta**, purchasing officer in the General Services Division, has a new grandchild – her first grandson. Dylan Christopher Lawrence was born October 18 in Fayetteville, NC. He weighed 6 pounds. His parents are Amy's son and daughter-in-law, Ian and Holly Lawrence.

**Carolyn Haggerty**, recently retired administrative specialist at the Augusta Forestry Center, has a new grandson. Aiden Christopher Haggerty was born October 16 in Columbus, Ohio. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces. He was welcomed by his parents, Ian and Amanda Haggerty, and big sister Addison. Everyone is doing great.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Sarah Campbell, daughter of **John Campbell**, public information director, graduated June 5 from Godwin High School in Richmond. She was inducted into the National Honor Society; the National Art Honor Society, and Beta Club International. Sarah is studying forensic biology at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and plans to become a DNA research scientist. VCU awarded Sarah an Emerging Leaders' Scholarship. Good job, Sarah!

### WEDDING BELLS!

Best wishes for a long and happy marriage!

**Lynwood Rogers**, FIA specialist, married Carrie Lykins on June 7.

**Todd Kready**, Bedford County forester in the Western Region, married Sharon July 19.

**Shannon Lewis**, Halifax County forester

in the Piedmont Region, married Pam on September 27.

### MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**Brenda Taylor**, administrative staff assistant at Central Office, has moved to the Augusta Forestry Center where she is providing administrative support to the AFC in addition to performing the majority of her Central Office duties – including her support of the water quality program.

### DEPARTURES

Best wishes on your new adventure!

**Ken Cooper**, Madison County technician in the Central Region, left VDOF to accept a position with the USDA Forest Service in Northern California.

**Steve McElhaney**, Bedford County technician in the Western Region, left VDOF to accept a position with the Jordan Lake State Park in North Carolina.

**Lawrence Tankersley**, Wise County forester in the Western Region, left VDOF after 16 years of service. He has accepted a position with the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

**Cody Daniels**, Isle of Wight County technician, left VDOF to accept a position as a firefighter with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Great Dismal Swamp NWR in Suffolk.

### FAREWELL

Best wishes in your retirement!

**Jerry Bailey**, technician in Caroline County, is putting away his fire tools after 37 years of service.

**Larry Cochran**, assistant director for training in the Resource Protection Division, decided to hang up his boots and retire after close to 30 years.

**Thomas Frazier**, technician at the Augusta Forestry Center, has decided to hang up his boots and retire after 35 years of service.



### HUMAN RESOURCE NEWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20...

**Carolyn Haggerty**, administrative specialist at the Augusta Forestry Center, retired after more than 19 years of service.

**Neva Hodges**, senior fiscal technician in the Fiscal Division, has decided to retire after more than 30 years of service with the state and five years with VDOF. Her retirement is effective January 1, 2009.

**Wayne Huskey**, building and grounds manager, has decided to hang up his tool belt and retire after 35 years of service. His retirement is effective January 1, 2009.

**Chuck Hutsell**, regional forester in Salem, retires December 1 after 22 years of service to VDOF.

**Steve Pence**, forester in Fluvanna County, will retire February 1, 2009, after 31 years of service.

### CONDOLENCES

**David and Ellen Powell** lost their newborn son, Aaron Joseph Powell, on July 22. (David is an assistant regional forester in the Central Region and Ellen is the conservation education coordinator in the Public Information Division.) Our thoughts and prayers are with Ellen and David.

**Bill Bruffey**, radio technician at Central Office, lost his father October 23.

**John Heilmann** passed away September 17, at his home at age 77. Mr. Heilmann served on our Reforestation of Timberlands Board for many years in the 1990s and was a staunch supporter of forestry efforts.

**Renee' Bishop**, former Purchasing Officer, tragically lost her 24-year old son, Corey, November 21 in a car accident. Keep Renee' and her family in your prayers.

**Bill Marsiglio**, Chesterfield firefighter and VDOF dozer operator, lost his wife, Sherry, September 11 to cancer. Many of you have known Bill from fighting fires or the fire academy. Bill has been a loyal friend to VDOF for many years.

**Jack Clayman**, former mechanic in Abingdon from 1974 until his retirement in 1998, died on November 6 from cancer. Our condolences to the Clayman family.



- Thomas Pleasants ~ Dec. 1 (Ret.)
- Joyce M. Landram ~ Dec. 3 (AG)
- Leslie C. Mace ~ Dec. 5 (CR)
- William B. Carlton ~ Dec. 6 (ER)
- Lewis F. Southard ~ Dec. 7 (Ret.)
- Patricia Nylander ~ Dec. 7 (CR)
- Jason T. Upton ~ Dec. 9 (ER)
- Tanya J. White ~ Dec. 9 (ER)
- Robert W. Stempel ~ Dec. 9 (Ret.)
- John Hisghman ~ Dec. 11 (CR)
- Wayne Bowman ~ Dec. 12 (CO)
- William E. Perry ~ Dec. 12 (CR)
- Justin E. Funk ~ Dec. 13 (CR)
- Jeffrey L. Hensley ~ Dec. 14 (CO)
- James F. Wagner ~ Dec. 14 (Ret.)
- Donald L. Foster ~ Dec. 14 (Ret.)
- James Blackwell ~ Dec. 17 (ER)

- Ronald S. Jenkins ~ Dec. 18 (CO)
- Daniel Fortune ~ Dec. 18 (CO)
- David K. Nabers ~ Dec. 18 (CO)
- Henry Womack ~ Dec. 21 (CR)
- Carl E. Garrison ~ Dec. 22 (CO)
- Buck Kline ~ Dec. 22 (CO)
- Brad Whittington ~ Dec. 23 (CR)
- James W. Bright ~ Dec. 24 (Ret.)
- Terry Brennen ~ Dec. 25 (Ret.)
- W. Chad Austin ~ Dec. 26 (WR)
- Ellen R. Powell ~ Dec. 27 (CO)
- Thomas Callahan ~ Dec. 28 (CO)
- Thomas Reeves ~ Dec. 30 (CR)
- Charles Hutsell ~ Dec. 30 (WR)
- Walter Washington ~ Dec. 30 (Ret.)
- John M. Carroll ~ Dec. 30 (CO)
- J. Riley Bruce ~ Dec. 31 (WR)
- Patrick Murphy ~ Dec. 31 (CR)
- Shannon Lawrence ~ Jan. 4 (CR)
- Keith P. Brown ~ Jan. 5 (CO)
- Edwina B. Blalock ~ Jan. 7 (CO)
- Phil T. Grimm ~ Jan. 7 (Ret.)
- Jesse L. Rivers ~ Jan. 7 (Ret.)
- Matthew Kimbler ~ Jan. 10 (WR)
- J. David Cooper ~ Jan. 10 (WR)
- James Timberlake ~ Jan. 12 (Ret.)
- Richard Steensma ~ Jan. 12 (ER)

- Jon A. Willoughby ~ Jan. 13 (WR)
- Thomas W. Zaebst ~ Jan. 14 (SF)
- Janet R. Muncy ~ Jan. 14 (CO)
- T. Kem Pace ~ Jan. 15 (WR)
- Sandra Stephens ~ Jan. 15 (CR)
- Neal Oberholtzer ~ Jan. 15 (CR)
- Mary L. Mead ~ Jan. 16 (Ret.)
- John D. Wilburn ~ Jan. 17 (ER)
- Todd A. Kready ~ Jan. 17 (WR)
- John A. Brooks ~ Jan. 17 (ER)
- Matthew Coleman ~ Jan. 19 (ER)
- Alan T. Sutherlin ~ Jan. 19 (ER)
- Kirby A. Woolfolk ~ Jan. 20 (CR)
- Alan D. Craft ~ Jan. 20 (Ret.)
- Rita D. Moore ~ Jan. 21 (CO)
- Donald Jamerson ~ Jan. 22 (NK)
- Trent G. Badgley ~ Jan. 24 (CO)
- David Terwilliger ~ Jan. 25 (ER)
- Terrance J. Lasher ~ Jan. 26 (CR)
- E. Edward Stoots ~ Jan. 28 (WR)
- Rodger L. Moyers ~ Jan. 29 (CR)
- D. David Snyder ~ Jan. 30 (CR)
- Carolyn S. Morris ~ Jan. 31 (Ret.)
- David J. Houttekier ~ Feb. 1 (CR)
- Ricky A. Butler ~ Feb. 2 (CR)
- Joseph P. Hancock ~ Feb. 2 (Ret.)
- William A. Lakel ~ Feb. 4 (CO)

- John W. Campbell ~ Feb. 4 (CO)
- Alexander J. Stace ~ Feb. 4 (ER)
- A. John Wright ~ Feb. 7 (WR)
- M. Bruce Thacker ~ Feb. 7 (Ret.)
- Chris Clayton ~ Feb. 8 (CR)
- Janet W. Barr ~ Feb. 9 (Ret.)
- Roger C. Roberts ~ Feb. 9 (Ret.)
- B. Blair Dalton ~ Feb. 12 (CR)
- Robert L. Miles ~ Feb. 12 (Ret.)
- Neva H. Hodges ~ Feb. 13 (CO)
- Michelle Quesenberry ~ Feb. 13 (WR)
- Connie H. Young ~ Feb. 13 (GG)
- Edward Embrey ~ Feb. 15 (Ret.)
- John D. Miller ~ Feb. 16 (CO)
- J. Wyatt Cox ~ Feb. 20 (ER)
- William Saunders ~ Feb. 21 (Ret.)
- M. Barbara White ~ Feb. 22 (CO)
- Robert Kennedy ~ Feb. 24 (Ret.)
- William R. Miller ~ Feb. 24 (WR)
- Martha Warring ~ Feb. 26 (CR)
- Jason Braunstein ~ Feb. 27 (CO)
- C. Kenneth Doss ~ Feb. 28 (WR)
- Douglas E. Audley ~ Feb. 29 (CR)



Dear **Chuck**, [**Chuck Wright**, forester, Goochland County, Central Region]

Thank you so very much for coming out to Art a la Carte, for our spring classes - Sandra Barkley's morning class for homeschoolers and then for my afterschool class, a nine-week series on "Mother Earth."

It was wonderful for the children to learn from an expert, leaf and tree identification, as it pertained to our lesson on preservation, recycling, renewing, etc. It was obvious that you left a very favorable impression on these young children, to respect "Mother Earth," namely, our forests. The projects the children made under your leadership - recycling, renewing old notebooks to create leaf identification booklets, will be shared and enjoyed with family, friends, and treasured for a long time to come.

Again, your professional service, bringing awareness to our children as to the service that you provide, brought another dimension to our educating these young children on this topic. Please know I appreciate all that you did to educate, also for bringing 'Smokey the Bear' bookmarks, magazines, and last but not least, small trees for the children to plant.

Thank you, and God bless!

Blane Cope, Art a la Carte LLC, Crozier, VA

Hi, Mr. Garrison

My name is Phil Gosher. I am a retired state employee after about 35 years, including sick leave credit, with VDOT and DGS. Most of this was in assistant division head positions [Management Services, Human Resources and Fleet Management]. I am giving you this background, hopefully, to establish some credibility in being able to recognize employee performance.

On a not too frequent basis, I would encounter an employee that just seemed to try to provide really exceptional service to the public. One of your employees, **Rick Butler** [forester, Appomattox County, Central Region], in Appomattox falls in this category. I have a small property in Appomattox, about 14 acres, planted in Loblolly Pine. Rick has pretty much taken me by the hand in helping me with grading, planting and maintenance of this property.

In my opinion, the level of service Rick has provided has been exceptional. He keeps me informed as to what needs to be done; why it needs to be done; what it will cost; what financial assistance is available, and what forms need to be submitted.

Seriously, how good does it get? We are talking about 14 acres, not the Ponderosa or something that is going to sustain the pulpwood industry. If we could clone this level of service there would be no more State Employee jokes.

I am sure there are things you or his direct supervisor would like him to do better; that is always the case, but, from the perspective of someone who has never dealt with your agency as a citizen, he certainly represents Forestry as an outstanding and helpful government entity.

Sincerely,

Phil Gosher



**Brian Ledford** [forester, Bland, Smyth, Washington and Wythe counties, Western Region]:

Brian, I received a phone call yesterday from a Bob Andrezywski (Andrews for short as he said) concerning help you have given him over the past couple of years on his land in Smyth County. Bob is handicap and had trouble writing letters himself and he wanted me to basically write something up for him and tell you how thankful he was for your assistance - which is the purpose of this e-mail. Bob lives in Damascus, VA, and moved to the area about seven years ago and has about 32 acres of land of which 22 was timbered in 2007 with him planting back about 20 acres in White Pine this year with your assistance.

He wants to "thank you for your ongoing assistance for the past couple of years starting with help in selling his timber to putting trees back in place - some of which did not cost him any money for the trees and all of which he was able to get cost-share assistance on from you." Bob stated that you are an "outstanding person" and that "In a lifetime, a person might run across a handful of certain individuals who are helpful and that Brian Ledford fit into that category with the assistance he has provided."

He told me that the State was very fortunate to have a person like you working for it."

This is the kind of call that as supervisors we all enjoy receiving, Brian, and it is with pleasure that I pass on to you his conversation with me - which I will also mail him a copy of this e-mail. He said, if he can get someone to write his thoughts down further, that he will also try to send his own letter - but being handicap made that difficult. You have "made him a happy camper" as he is satisfied with your service rendered.

Thank you for your good efforts!

Ed Stoots, regional forester, Western Region

View the Forestry News and other Virginia Department of Forestry publications electronically.

[www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

**Submit articles to:**

**Janet Muncy, editor**

**[janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:janet.muncy@dof.virginia.gov)**

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