A “Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity” for Many Students

Written by Tom Snoddy, Virginia Department of Forestry Area Forester in Spotsylvania County and first-time camp counselor

Camp has come and gone for the 58th time, and before the campers have all left, many of the counselors are asking each other “Will I see you here next year?” It’s hard to say who had more fun at camp this year, the campers or the staff.

Although the forestry and natural resource classes were taught at a high school level, I found that I learned something new every day. The campers were exposed to a wide variety of topics in various nooks and crannies of a vast forest. All students learned about wildlife, reforestation, timber harvesting, forest ecology, forest management, dendrology, tree improvement, environmental protection and forest measurements. Quizzes and tests kept the students striving to do their best.

The teens were also offered a wide variety of outdoor recreation exploratory courses, ranging from the use of GPS units and aerial photographs to skeet shooting. Many students experienced these activities for the first time in their lives.

Sports were a highlight of the week, in particular the softball and volleyball competitions. Horseshoes were available, as well as a very nice pool, soccer, ping-pong, tennis and a game I had never heard of before- ‘gua-gua’ (pronounced gaa-gaa). I was very impressed with the sportsmanlike conduct of all the participants.

Each evening, the entire camp gathered for ‘Reflections’- a few moments of silent time to collect our thoughts, followed by encouraging words or observations about the beauty of our environment. It was a peaceful break built in to a busy schedule.

A number of guest speakers gave presentations each night. One of the most memorable demonstrations was the rocket nets used to capture wild turkeys for wildlife research. On another evening, the camp watched Virginia Department of Forestry employees Mike Armstrong and his bloodhound, Levi, track a camp counselor to his hiding spot. Probably the most entertaining presentation was prepared by the campers themselves: the camp talent show. The students displayed quite a bit of talent after just a short period of time to prepare. A young

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harmonica player from Front Royal won the show, although he had some very tough competition. Other contestants included singers, instrumentalists and Vaudeville-style performers. We were even entertained by a pair of twin young ladies visiting our camp. They performed a song written for their recent kindergarten graduation.

Eighty-five students from 36 counties in Virginia attended camp this year, including 23 female students. Awards were given to the top 10 academic performers, with prizes consisting of flashlights, sleeping bags and other outdoor gear. This year’s top academic performer was Allison Carlstrom from Stafford County, who walked away with a $100 Savings Bond and some other nice gifts for her efforts.

As much as we all like to see students do well academically, it was equally rewarding to watch the students interact with each other throughout the week and exhibit qualities that are difficult to measure with tests. The entire camp staff was encouraged by the determination, drive, spirit, compassion, teamwork, responsibility, and good attitude displayed by the campers. It isn’t easy to put our lives on hold for a week to stay in cabins without air conditioning and work the long camp days. But watching the campers leave with a better understanding of Virginia’s forests and a trunk full of happy memories is indeed a rewarding experience.

_Holiday Lake Forestry Camp is coordinated by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center with support from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, forest industries, conservation agencies and organizations, and individual forest stewards committed to youth conservation education._
2004 CAMP STAFF

CAMP DIRECTOR
  Denny McCarthy - VDOF - Salem Region

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
  Alan Craft - VDOF - Alleghany County
  Gale Washburn - VDOF - Lunenburg County

CAMP REGISTRAR
  Becky Woodson - VDOF - Charlottesville
  Sue Tennant - VDOF - Farmville

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

INSTRUCTORS

Environmental Protection .......................Karen Stanley – VDOF – Rockbridge County
Reproducing the Forest .......................Heather Sneade – VDOF – Dinwiddie County
Tree Identification, Insects, Disease.......Amy Bigger – Smurfit-Stone Corporation – Keysville
Forest Measurements ............................Randy Ogle – Smurfit-Stone Corporation – Powhatan
Timber Harvesting ..............................Billy Newman – EnviroFor LLC, Consulting Forester – Nelson County
.......................................................Terry Brennan – VDOF – Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
Wildlife Management ...........................Laura Polant – VDOF – Floyd County
Tree Improvement, Nursery Mgmt..............Paul Reier – VDOF – New Kent Forestry Center
Forest Ecology ..................................Ward Robens – Dabney-Lancaster Community College
Forest Management ..............................Pat Murphy – VDOF – Prince Edward County
Save Our Streams ...............................Mike Hayslett – Holiday Lake Natural Resource Education Coordinator
Canoeing ............................................Becca Barnett – Holiday Lake 4-H Center
Skeet Shooting .................................Thomas Woodson and Antwan Rose, Holiday Lake 4-H Center
Archery .............................................Aaron LaFleur, Holiday Lake 4-H Center
Climbing Tower .................................Chance Holder, Holiday Lake 4-H Center
High Ropes Initiative ............................Jason Piatt, Holiday Lake 4-H Center
Wildfire Tactics and Equipment ..............Alex Williamson – VDOF – Halifax
.......................................................Mike Womack – VDOF – Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
 .......................................................Hal Myers – VDOF – Amherst County
Wilderness Survival ............................Sgt. Charles Horton – Virginia Army National Guard
Fly Fishing ........................................Dan Genest and Billy Pearsal – Dominion Virginia Power
Map and Compass .................................Sgt. Charles Horton – Virginia Army National Guard
GPS Mapping/Aerial Photo .....................Michael LaChance – 4-H Nelson County Cooperative Extension
PLT Educator Training ..........................Lisa Deaton – VDOF – Project Learning Tree State Coordinator
Urban Forestry Arborist Demonstration ....Alan Jones – Bartlett Tree Experts
Lumberjack Field Day .............................Gale Washburn – VDOF – Lunenburg County
Bloodhound Tracking Team .................Mike Armstrong and Levi – VDOF - Rockingham County
Rocket Net Demonstration ......................Gary Norman – Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
 .......................................................David Coffman – Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Wildlife Calling Contest ......................David Coffman – Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Game Warden Duties ............................Sgt. Bill Kidd – Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Bear Research .....................................Mark Puckett – Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

COUNSELORS

Laura Polant – VDOF – Floyd County          Randy Short – VDOF – Scott County
Karen Stanley – VDOF – Rockbridge County     John Willoughby – VDOF – Louisa County
Debbie Howe – VDOF – Charlottesville         Tom Snoddy – VDOF – Spotsylvania County
Heather Snead – VDOF – Dinwiddie County      David Groves – VDOF – HEARTH Homeschool
Melissa Hooper – Virginia Tech Grad Student  Hylton Haynes – VDOF – Nottoway County
Carl Belew – VDOF – Charlottesville         Bill Macintosh – Mountain Castles SWCD
Todd Kready – VDOF - Henry County            Scott Detar – Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Scott Siebert – VDOF – Cumberland State Forest Derek Mays – Amherst County Public Schools
R. J. Garman – VDOF, retired

Students learn which types of trees will be harvested in a series of commercial thinnings.
2004 HOLIDAY LAKE FORESTRY CAMP SPONSORS

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions and in-kind services from the following groups and individuals whose generous support make Holiday Lake Forestry Camp possible:

**Forest Industry**
- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Big Island Log & Lumber Co.
- Buffalo Shook Company Inc.
- Davey Tree Expert Company
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation
- Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co.
- Griffith Lumber Company
- Greif Brothers Corporation
- International Paper
- Lindsay Hardwoods Inc.
- MeadWestvaco Corporation
- Neff Lumber Mills Inc.
- Rayonier Wood Products LLC
- Smurfit-Stone Corporation
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Implementation Committee

**Consulting Foresters**
- Appalachian Timberland Management
- Delmer D. Aylor
- Lee Bethea
- Bill Newman, ENVIROFOR LLC

**Agencies**
- Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest
- Dabney Lancaster Community College

**Conservation Associations, Businesses & Individuals**
- Appalachian Forest Management Group
- Bank of America – Charlottesville
- Cindy Barnett
- Bartlett Education Foundation
- Edward L. Cain
- Dick’s Sporting Goods, Charlottesville
- James & Mary Beth Dobbins
- Dominion Virginia Power
- Fly Fisherman of Virginia
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Powhatan Junior Women’s Club
- Quality Deer Management Association, Shenandoah Valley Branch
- Rustic Frames by David Coffman
- Society of American Foresters
  
  - Skyline Chapter
  - Blue Ridge Chapter
  - Rappahannock Chapter
  - Southeastern Chapter
- Trout Unlimited, Shenandoah Valley Chapter
- Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
- Virginia Forestry Educational Foundation
- Virginia Outdoor Writers Association Inc.
- Vinegar Hill Advertising Specialties

**Soil & Water Conservation Districts**
- Appomattox River
- Blue Ridge
- Culpeper
- Halifax
- Hanover
- Headwaters
- Henrico
- Holston River
- J.R. Horsley
- James River
- John Marshall
- Lake Country
- Monacan
- Mountain
- Mountain Castles
- Natural Bridge
- Peaks of Otter
- Peter Francisco
- Piedmont
- Shenandoah Valley
- Tazewell
- Three Rivers

**Budget Summary**

The 2004 Camp cost $250 per camper for meals, lodging and all other camp expenses. Campers paid a $55 registration fee, and all 85 campers received a full scholarship for the remaining costs. There were 62 male and 23 female students this year. The 46 staff members served as “in-kind” contributors who were paid by their employers or truly volunteered their time. The staff represented 16 organizations.

### EXPENSES

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-H Education Center: Food &amp; Facilities</td>
<td>$14,845</td>
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<td>Vans</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Staff Fees</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
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<td>Administrative Fees</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>Camper and Staff T-shirts</td>
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<td>Appomattox School Buses</td>
<td>$450</td>
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<td>Camper Notebook Printing</td>
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<td>Academic Awards</td>
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<td>Promotional Materials</td>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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### PERCENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS BY CONTRIBUTOR CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 Forest Industries</td>
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<td>$5,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Consulting Foresters</td>
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<td>$300</td>
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<td>4 Agencies</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<td>10 Association and Individuals</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Soil &amp; Water Conservation Districts</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>$3,150</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$16,552</strong></td>
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### REVENUE

- Sponsor Scholarships (detail above) $16,552
- Student Registration Fee: 85 Students X $55 $4,675

**TOTAL REVENUE** $21,227
Students must first be nominated to attend Forestry Camp. Acceptance is based on information submitted on this form. Prospective campers should have a desire to explore and experience activities in forestry and wildlife-related careers, or have a special interest in hands-on learning about natural resource conservation. Nominations are accepted from teachers, forestry and wildlife professionals, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 4-H and Scout leaders, sponsor organizations, etc.

NOTE: Previous attendees are not eligible. Nominees must be 13-16 years of age.

A registration form and detailed camp information will be mailed to all nominees upon acceptance by MAY 13. All campers are awarded a $200 scholarship to defray some of the cost of attending Camp. Campers need pay only a $55 registration fee to confirm their attendance. The $55 Registration Fee is due with return of the completed REGISTRATION FORM in May.

For more information and access to our NEW on-line nomination form, visit our Web site at:

Or, mail nominations to:
Virginia Department of Forestry, Attn: Holiday Lake Forestry Camp, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800, Charlottesville, VA 22903

Questions? Contact Lisa Deaton at (804)328-3031 or lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov

DEADLINE: Nominations must be received by APRIL 22, 2005

(Please Print Legibly or Type)

Student Name:
(last name) ___________ (first name) ___________ (MI) ___________ Age: _______ Grade: _______

Address:
(mailing address) ___________ (city) ___________ (state) ___________ (zip code) ___________

Phone No.:

Student or Parent Email: __________________________

School: __________________________ Located In (county/city): __________________________

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINATOR (Please check one for each category to the best of your knowledge.)

Attitude: ❑ Fair ❑ Good ❑ Excellent
Scholastic Standing: ❑ Fair ❑ Good ❑ Excellent
Interest in Forestry, Wildlife or related Conservation Activities: ❑ Fair ❑ Good ❑ Excellent

JUSTIFICATION FOR NOMINATION (Person nominating must give brief written justification of why he / she feels the student will benefit from and contribute to the Camp and state why the student wants to attend. Check or list other activities that demonstrate interest and qualifications.)
❑ 4-H ❑ FFA ❑ Scouting ❑ Envirothon ❑ Ecology Club ❑ Jakes ❑ Sports

Other Activities: __________________________

Qualifications / Justification: __________________________

______________________________

Nominated By: Name: __________________________ Title: __________________________

Organization, Company, School, etc.: __________________________ Phone No.: __________________________

Address:
(mailing address) ___________ (city) ___________ (state) ___________ (zip code) ___________

Email: __________________________
Introducing... Forestry Camp

For almost 60 years, Holiday Lake Forestry Camp has introduced young Virginians to the knowledge and skills needed for managing the forest resources we use and enjoy every day. Administered by the Virginia Department of Forestry in cooperation with natural resource conservation agencies and organizations, the Camp is designed for students who:

- Want to explore and experience activities in forestry and wildlife-related careers
- Participate in forestry and wildlife judging teams, Envirothon competitions, or ecology clubs
- Have a special interest in hands on learning about natural resource conservation

Camp is held at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center located within the 20,000-acre Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. This working forest provides a vast outdoor classroom for interactive learning. Classes are taught in the woods by professional foresters, wildlife biologists and conservation resource specialists. Courses include:

- Sustainable Forest Management Practices
- Timber Harvesting and Reforestation
- Tree Measurements
- Environmental Protection
- Wildlife Management and Habitat Improvement
- Tree Identification

Field trips are taken to an active logging operation, arborist training, and a modern paper mill. Exploratory classes are offered in ecology, forest fire equipment and tactics, wilderness survival, canoeing, skeet marksmanship, and high ropes initiatives. Evening programs feature presentations by area game wardens, wildlife researchers, and forest firefighters. A LUMBERJACK FIELD DAY provides group competition in crosscut sawing, log-rolling and other traditional outdoor skills contests. Recreation and athletics are led by a qualified director and Red Cross lifeguards. Included are swimming, softball, volleyball and horseshoe pitching.

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

Scholarships are available for educators to participate in Camp classes and activities. Teachers will also receive training in the Project Learning Tree curriculum and 40 hours of re-certification points.

Scholarships Provided

The Camp is financed through contributions from forest industries, conservation agencies and associations, and individual sponsors committed to educating tomorrow’s young leaders.

Campers are selected from nominations made by teachers, forestry and wildlife professionals, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 4-H and Scout Leaders and partner sponsoring organizations.

All students selected to attend Camp are awarded a $200 scholarship to defray some of the cost (such as food, facilities and activity materials) of attending Camp. Campers pay a $55 registration fee to confirm their attendance and acceptance of the scholarship.

Criteria for nomination and matching scholarship:

- an interest in forestry, wildlife or related conservation activities
- potential for benefiting from the Camp
- age 13-16
- good academic standing
- Previous attendees are not eligible

Nomination forms and other Camp information may be obtained on our Web site:


Simply complete our NEW on-line nomination form, or mail forms to:

Virginia Department of Forestry
ATTN: Holiday Lake Forestry Camp
900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800
Charlottesville, VA  22903

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 22, 2005.

Selection and notification of all nominees are completed by MAY 13, 2005.

Questions? Call (804) 328-3031
OR
Email lisa.deaton@dof.virginia.gov

Holiday Lake Forestry Camp programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability. EEO/AA 1/18/2005