

DELAWARE FOREST SERVICE



ANNUAL
REPORT
2020





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July 1, 2020

Michael T. Scuse, Secretary
Delaware Department of Agriculture
2320 South DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Secretary Scuse:

My staff and I greatly appreciate your continued support for the valuable public services offered by the Delaware Forest Service. Urban treescaping and rural forests in Delaware provide so many vital natural benefits it is in our collective interest to protect and conserve them the best we can and ensure their health and longevity for the enjoyment of future generations.

The attached Annual Report for FY20 summarizes the many forestry-related activities we successfully completed within our core programs—forest health, forest stewardship, urban and community forestry, and wildland fire. The details and highlights contained herein should give you a clear picture of the dedication and enthusiasm of the Delaware Forest Service staff. Our goals revolve around protecting trees and forests and educating the general public on the importance of this widespread and invaluable natural resource.

The ongoing support that we receive from the Carney Administration, Delaware General Assembly, and the U.S. Forest Service helps us perform those tasks that ensure success in achieving our mission to *conserve, protect, and enhance Delaware's forests through education, management, and professional assistance.*

Sincerely,

Michael A. Valenti
Forestry Administrator

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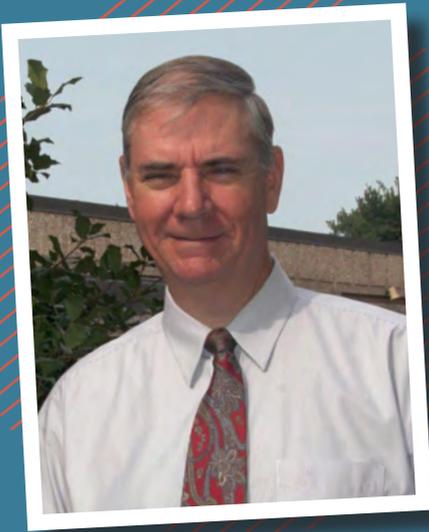
COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

Jay Ashby, <i>Chair</i>	<i>Cypress Tree Care, LLC</i>
Marcia Fox, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	<i>DNREC</i>
Dorothy C. Abbott	<i>University of Delaware</i>
Kesha Braunskill	<i>Urban Program Director</i>
Valann Budischak	<i>Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association</i>
Kyle Hoyd	<i>Assistant State Forester</i>
Kerin Hume	<i>Kent Conservation District</i>
Ron Kowalski	<i>Bartlett Tree Company (Associate)</i>
Carol Larson	<i>Village of Arden</i>
Megan Pleasanton	<i>Delaware State University</i>
Richard Pratt	<i>Governor's Council on Forestry</i>
Elaine Schmerling	<i>Ardentown</i>
Sam Seo	<i>Delaware Center for Horticulture</i>
Mardi Thompson	<i>City of Lewes (Associate)</i>
Michael A. Valenti	<i>State Forester</i>
Herb White	<i>City of Wilmington (Associate)</i>

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Peter Martin, <i>Chair</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>
Richard Pratt, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Clayton</i>
Dot Abbott	<i>Wyoming</i>
Rachel Egolf	<i>Delmar</i>
William Jester	<i>Harrington</i>
Daniel Tartt, Jr.	<i>Harrington</i>
Michael A. Valenti	<i>State Forester</i>





Michael Valenti
Delaware State Forester

The urban and community forestry program provided over \$65,000 for 17 tree projects in the First State.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Healthy forests are an essential part of many healthy ecosystems in Delaware and benefit everyone. They are, without a doubt, a vital part of the state's natural infrastructure. Without forests, we lose the natural benefits they provide—clean water, clean air, critical wildlife habitat, soil protection, forest products, and carbon sequestration/storage. Forests also provide the public with many healthy recreational opportunities.

Our forests are an essential natural resource that must be protected from loss and harm. In keeping with this major priority, we: 1) encourage all forest landowners to practice sound forest management, 2) monitor forests statewide for short- and long-term health threats, and 3) seek ways to improve public awareness of the importance of Delaware's trees and forests and the services offered by the Delaware Forest Service. These interwoven strategies are implemented within three main program areas: **conservation, protection, and education.**

FOREST CONSERVATION

Urban and Community Forestry Program

The Urban and Community Forestry program provides technical assistance to cities, towns, communities, developers, and local governments. Staff members help develop community forest management plans and street tree inventories. Annual community forestry grants are awarded to organizations for tree planting or tree management projects on public lands. In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service provided \$65,308 for 17 tree projects throughout the First State as part of its annual grant program.

Landowner Assistance

Professional foresters help landowners improve the quality of their forestlands. This technical assistance includes management activities such as reforestation, timber harvesting, timber stand improvement, and the development forest management plans. In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service supervised the planting of 135,450 seedlings on 180 acres of private land and prepared 23 stewardship plans for 2,390 total acres.

FOREST PROTECTION

Wildland Fire Program

Delaware Forest Service personnel help protect the First State's natural resources through the wildland fire program. Foresters and conservation techs assist volunteer fire companies with wildland fire suppression and provide wildland fire training. In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service assisted 82% of Delaware's volunteer fire companies (49/60) with wildfire suppression, loaning of equipment, and/or training. The Delaware Forest Service responded to 11 wildfires that burned nearly 17 acres and was on standby for over 752 outdoor fires in the state.

Delaware wildland firefighters contributed 127 person-days to the national effort in FY20. Through a prescribed fire program designed to assist landowners, staff completed controlled burns on a total of 158 acres. Delaware Forest Service staff also provided fire education programs to more than 5,300 first-grade students.

Forest Health Program

During the past year, foresters provided 81 forest insect and disease diagnoses for landowners and homeowners. Our staff members keep a close eye on forest pest activity in forests statewide. Early detection of pests is the key to successful eradication and high-value specimen tree protection in and around an infested area.

Watershed Protection

Foresters review all commercial forest management operations and activities in the state to ensure compliance with the Forestry Practices Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) law. In FY20, foresters issued 82 permits on 3,421 acres and conducted 74 site inspections. During these inspections, foresters provide technical assistance to forestry operators to safeguard water quality during harvesting operations.

FORESTRY EDUCATION

Information and Education

The Delaware Forest Service emphasizes education in all forestry program areas. Our goal is to inform and educate citizens on the importance of Delaware's forest resources. In FY20, staff members provided 51 forestry educational programs to 4,266 participants on a variety of topics in schools, clubs, civic groups, and communities.

State Forest Management

The Delaware Forest Service manages 21,156 acres of land at Redden (13,927), Blackbird (5,929), and Taber (1,300) State Forests. Multiple use management objectives include wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, forest products, natural resource education, and water quality protection. In FY20, an estimated 38,426 visitors logged 30,585 user-days with popular activities such as hunting, wildlife observation, hiking, and equestrian events.

I hope you find this summary report informative, as it outlines the Delaware Forest Service's major accomplishments for FY20. We continue to fulfill our mission to *conserve, protect, and enhance Delaware's forests through education, management, and professional assistance*. Feel free to contact our offices or visit de.gov/forestry if you require any type of forestry or shade tree assistance or to learn more about the Delaware Forest Service.

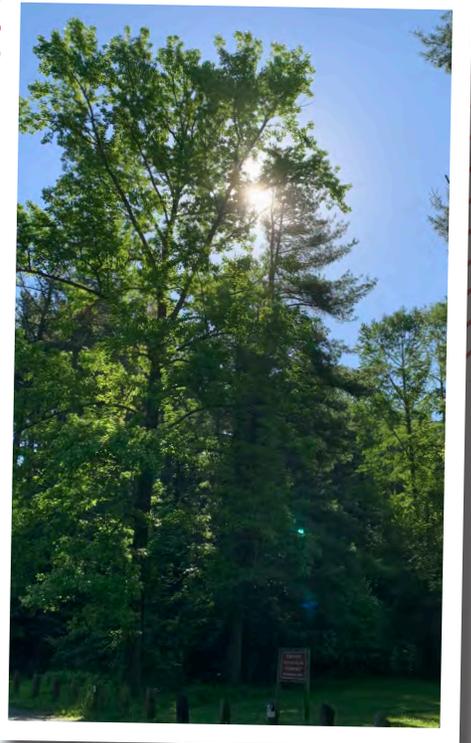


Michael A. Valenti

Michael A. Valenti, Forestry Administrator



In FY20, foresters issued 82 permits on 3,421 acres and conducted 74 site inspections.



IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS

The introduction of the contagious novel coronavirus into the United States, and the potential threat of COVID-19 disease, has had an unprecedented and wide-ranging impact on the entire State of Delaware in FY20—most especially on our schools, families, state and local governments, and businesses. COVID-19 fundamentally altered our way of life and forced us to implement new policies and procedures to protect the health of our employees and customers.

In response to the coronavirus, the Delaware Forest Service closed state forest campsites and the Redden Lodge. The pandemic also resulted in the cancellation of major events, including the Arbor Day poster contest and ceremony, annual Fire Camp training, school outreach and education programs, volunteer tree plantings, and all in-person meetings, association banquets, and official travel.

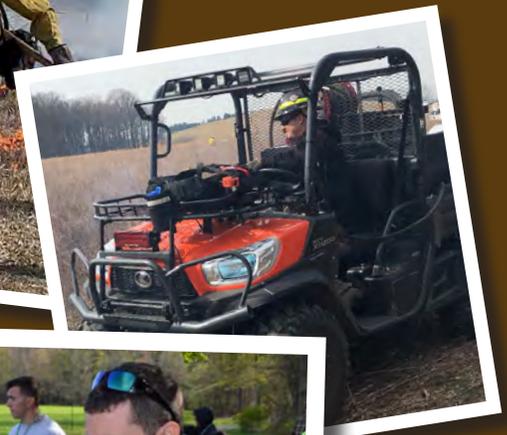
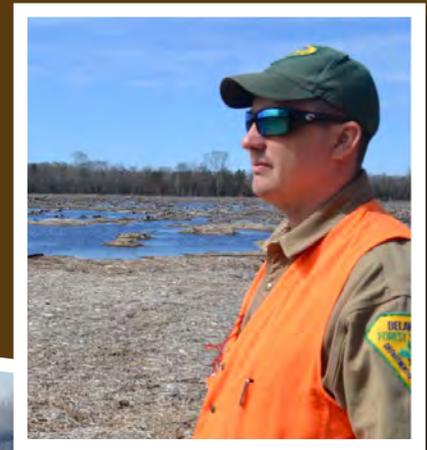
The Delaware Forest Service understandably sustained a major reduction in its ability to offer traditional programs and services. Nevertheless, DFS staff continued to carry out the agency's mission using a blend of modern technology, social distancing measures, office reconfigurations, and other public health strategies. DFS staff also served at the Joint Information Center, part of the State Health Operations Center command post in Smyrna that coordinated Delaware's public health and emergency response to COVID 19, in partnership with the Governor's Office, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and its Division of Public Health, and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA).



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

Agriculture Secretary Michael T. Scuse presented the Department of Agriculture's "Outstanding Employee of the Year Award" to the Delaware Forest Service's Kent County forester Chris Miller.

Kent County forester Chris Miller received this year's Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.



Chris Miller received Delaware's "Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service" for his outstanding work on forest conservation, landowner outreach, wildland fire response, and student education programs. Among his many accomplishments, Chris has implemented water control projects at Taber State Forest to restore wildlife habitat, served on the Type 6 engine crew that fought the Eagle Creek Fire in Oregon's Columbia River Gorge in 2017, and helped with the annual Envirothon Competition and FFA Forestry Career Development Event. Chris also oversees timber harvest permitting and reforestation efforts in Kent County that promote the forest industry while also protecting regional water quality.

FOREST CONSERVATION

A major issue facing forests is poor management. Many of Delaware's rural forests are managed for timber production, but it can take 40 years to grow a mature crop of timber. Many landowners might only harvest timber once in their lifetime and not be aware of management techniques to help them fully achieve their forestry objectives. The Delaware Forest Service offers assistance to help these landowners. Many communities also suffer because they lack management plans for their street trees, a complete inventory of their trees, or the expertise to manage them. Therefore, many urban forests do not provide their full range of benefits such as energy savings, reduced storm water runoff, and temperature moderation.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Urban and Community Forestry Program

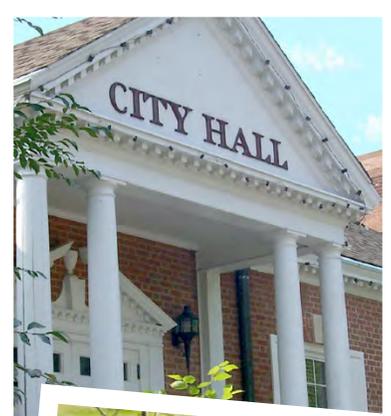
The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program provides technical assistance to cities, towns, communities, developers, and local governments to advise communities on management plans and street tree inventories. Urban foresters also review proposed developments to conserve and protect urban forest resources. In addition, annual community forestry grants are offered to various groups for tree management and tree planting projects on public lands. The program also provides educational training through public presentations to schools, universities, municipal groups, and regional tree workshops.

Urban and Community Grant Program

The Delaware Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program offers grants to municipalities, schools, non-profit organizations and government agencies for tree planting and management projects on public lands. The U&CF program goals are to increase tree canopy, beautify community spaces, and promote the many benefits of trees. Grants are made possible by the U.S. Forest Service and state funds. Recipients must provide a 50-50 cost share match that can be met through volunteer labor, donated materials and services, or cash. The program is open to any city, town, community group, homeowner association, or certified non-profit organization in the State of Delaware. Awards ranged from \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000 in one of two project categories: tree planting or tree management. Projects had to be completed on public lands in the community. Priority was given to first-time applicants, Tree Friendly Communities, and municipalities with an urban tree canopy resolution.

In FY20, the Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded more than \$65,000 for 17 tree projects throughout the First State.

URBAN & Community Forestry DELAWARE FOREST SERVICE



URBAN AND COMMUNITY GRANTS

COMMUNITY	CITY	COUNTY	AWARD
Pencader Cemetery	Glasgow	New Castle	\$5,000
Riverview, Wilmington, Brandywine, & Old Swedes Cemeteries	Wilmington	New Castle	\$2,500
Westover Hills Section C	Wilmington	New Castle	\$900
Champions Club at Jonathan's Landing	Magnolia	Kent	\$5,000
Elizabeth W. Murphey School	Dover	Kent	\$3,810
Town of Millville	Millville	Sussex	\$5,000
Villages at Five Points	Lewes	Sussex	\$5,000
Milford Riverwalk	Milford	Sussex	\$2,109
Forest Landing	Frankford	Sussex	\$1,739
		TOTAL	\$31,058

CHESAPEAKE BAY GRANT

COMMUNITY	CITY	COUNTY	AWARD
Town of Delmar	Delmar	Sussex	\$2,000
		TOTAL	\$2,000

FOCUS FUNDING PROJECTS

COMMUNITY	CITY	COUNTY	AWARD
Alapocas	Wilmington	New Castle	\$5,000
Westover Hills Section A	Wilmington	New Castle	\$5,000
Spring Meadows Community	Smyrna	Kent	\$4,450
Holland Mills	Milton	Sussex	\$5,000
Lewes Crossing	Lewes	Sussex	\$5,000
Long Neck Shores	Millsboro	Sussex	\$5,000
Meadows at Villages of Old Landing	Rehoboth Beach	Sussex	\$2,800
		TOTAL	\$32,250



Residents at Forest Landing in Frankford met with urban program director Kesha Braunskill to discuss their tree planting project. The homeowners association received an urban and community forest grant for \$1,739.

Urban and Community Grants

In FY20, the Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded \$65,308 for 17 tree projects throughout the First State as part of its annual grant program. Over the past 15 years, the program has given more than \$1.75 million in grants to help communities increase tree canopy and promote the natural benefits of trees: cleaner air and water, increased property values and civic pride, as well as reduced storm water runoff and flooding. A total of nine grants for \$31,058 were awarded by a committee of the Delaware Community Forestry Council in the competitive grant process.

Chesapeake Bay Grant

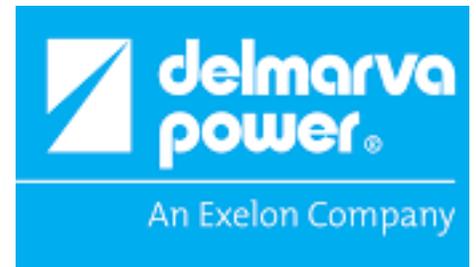
The U&CF Program awarded a grant of \$2,000 to the Town of Delmar to plant trees in the community playground. Delmar is located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the largest estuary in the U.S. and a high-priority for water quality improvement projects.

Focus Funding Projects

The U&CF Program provided a total of \$32,250 to seven communities for tree maintenance and planting projects that increase tree canopy and help manage urban forests. In many cases, trees were planted by volunteers.

Partnerships

The U&CF Program, Delmarva Power, The Friends of Bellevue State Park, and Bellevue State Parks staff have come together to work on a planting project in Bellevue State Parks. The planting will include planting trees in the parking lot to help with shade and reduce heat island effects. Additional planting will take place along the Carr Road entrance to create a buffer to screen the park to decrease noise pollution and decrease site lines to the I-95 corridor. Due to COVID-19, the planting schedule was postponed to Fall 2020.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Tree City USA

With help from the urban and community forestry program, 10 towns and cities in Delaware achieved Tree City USA status from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City USA is a community improvement program honoring cities and towns that promote and enhance their forests and meet standards by the Arbor Day Foundation:

- establish a tree board to develop and administer a public tree management program,
- create a community tree ordinance that designates the tree board which has responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan,
- spend at least \$2 per resident per year on community forestry activities, and
- celebrate Arbor Day with a ceremony that includes a proclamation from the mayor and council.

There was a decrease in the number of Tree City USAs in Delaware for 2019. However, due to COVID 19 restrictions, the Arbor Day Foundation has relaxed the standard to have an Arbor Day event and proclamation, which will hopefully allow more municipalities to recertify for the program in the next calendar year.



TREE CITY USA®

DELAWARE

BY THE NUMBERS

LONGEST-RUNNING
ACTIVE TREE CITY USA
COMMUNITY:

Dover

31 YEARS

TREE CITY USA® PROGRAM

COMMUNITY	YEARS	COUNTY
Arden	13	New Castle
New Castle	8	New Castle
Newark	19	New Castle
Wilmington	27	New Castle
Dover	31	Kent
Dover Air Force Base	28	Kent
Bethany Beach	14	Sussex
Henlopen Acres	4	Sussex
Lewes	19	Sussex
Rehoboth Beach	29	Sussex

\$1,522,019

SPENT ON
URBAN FORESTRY
MANAGEMENT



\$9.21

average per capita

REPORTED NUMBER OF
TREES PLANTED 555



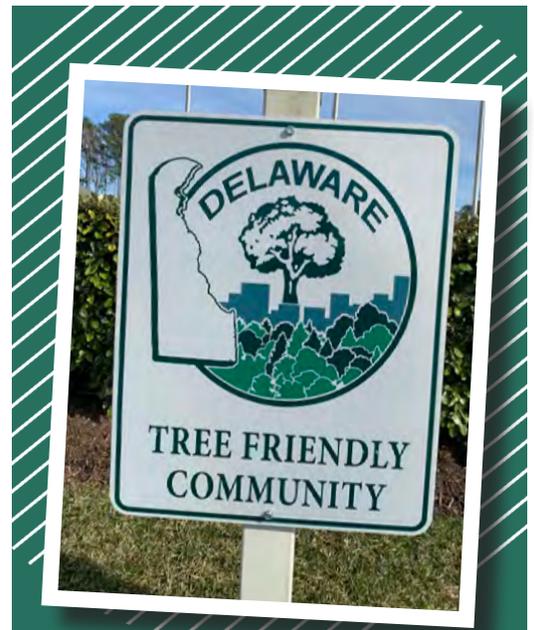
Tree Friendly Community Program

Delaware's "Tree Friendly Community Program" honors communities and HOAs that protect and enhance urban forests. Levels correspond to their the length of participation. A total of 24 communities earned the honor by achieving at least three of the following:

- annual ceremony to promote community forests,
- tree project to enhance urban forests,
- community forestry management plan,
- community ordinance to protect trees
- tree commission or tree board, and
- tree budget of \$1 per household.

TREE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY	LEVEL	COUNTY
Alapocas	Bronze	New Castle
Beech Hill	Bronze	New Castle
Carrcroft	Bronze	New Castle
Edenridge I & II	Platinum	New Castle
Fairthorne	Bronze	New Castle
Historic Penn Farms	Bronze	New Castle
Tavistock	Platinum	New Castle
Westover Hills A	Platinum	New Castle
Westover Hills C	Platinum	New Castle
Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery	Silver	New Castle
Woodbrook Civic Association	Bronze	New Castle
Champions' Club	Bronze	Kent
Spring Meadows Community	Bronze	Kent
Bayside – Tunnell Community	Silver	Sussex
Baywood – Tunnell Community	Silver	Sussex
Creekside – Tunnell Community	Silver	Sussex
Coveside – Tunnell Community	Silver	Sussex
Dockside – Tunnell Community	Silver	Sussex
Lakeside – Tunnell Community	Silver	Sussex
Seaside – Tunnell Community	Silver	Sussex
Forest Landing	Bronze	Sussex
Meadows at Old Landing	Bronze	Sussex
Canal Pointe Single Family HOA	Bronze	Sussex
Sterling Cooper	Bronze	Sussex
Bayside – Fenwick Island	Bronze	Sussex



“Tree Friendly Community” is a recognition program that honors homeowner and civic associations that protect and enhance their urban forests in the First State.



Tree Campus USA

Delaware State University is the only Tree Campus USA in the First State, an honor it has held for eight consecutive years. The award is for institutions that have implemented a tree care plan supported by funding allocations, a campus advisory committee, educational outreach, and an annual Arbor Day celebration. DSU is one of the few Historically Black College or Universities (HBCU) in the U.S. to earn this designation. Its main campus in Dover features an arboretum with hundreds of trees encompassing over 130 species.

9th Annual Arborist & Tree Care Seminar

The 9th Annual Delaware Arborist and Tree Care Seminar was held on October 22 and 23, 2019 at the Delaware State Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. The event included lecture presentations and vendor exhibits. Attendees could earn continuing education credits for International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification, Maryland Tree Expert credits, and Delaware pesticide credits.

Featured speakers included:

- Nancy Gregory, University of Delaware
- Wei Zhang, Tree Diaper
- Bill Seybold, Delaware Forest Service
- Kenneth Glass, STIHL
- Jake Ricker, Baker's Power and Turf
- Joe Murray, Tree Literacy LLC
- Dan Staley, Arbor Drone
- Trent Dicks, Arborjet
- Jason Grabowsky, Rutgers University
- Stephen Hilbert, Asplundh

9th Annual Delaware Arborist & Tree Care Seminar



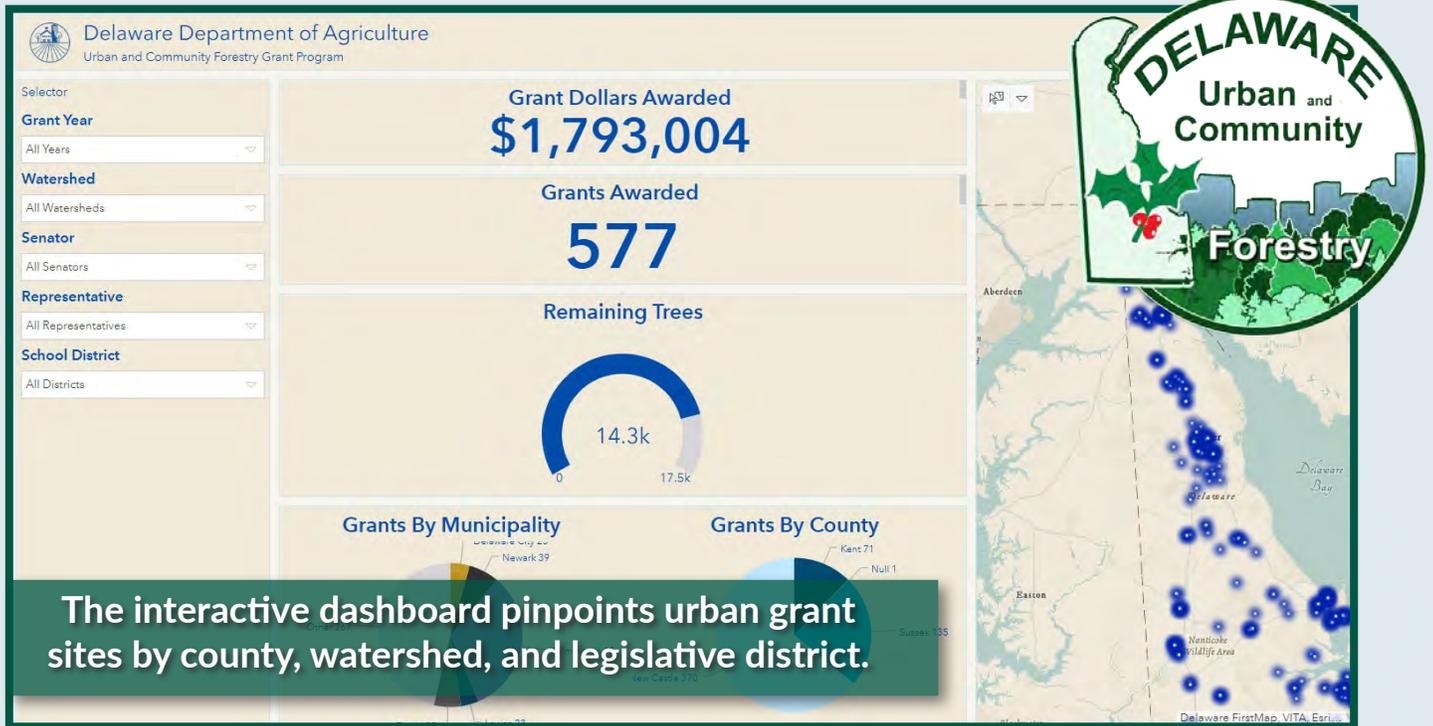
From left, University of Delaware's Nancy Gregory and USDA's Lianmarie Colon.



9th Annual Arborist & Tree Care Seminar: (Above, left) Dr. Wei Zhang meets with a seminar attendee. (Above, right) The Delaware Forest Service's trainer-educator Ashley Melvin with Prof. Jason Grabowsky of Rutgers University.



From left, Jim Dowd and Kesha Braunskill of the Delaware Forest Service.



Urban and Community Grant Dashboard

The Urban and Community Forestry Program launched a new dashboard tool in early 2019. The grants dashboard tool provides an outward-facing platform for the public to see where the urban program has delivered tree planting projects statewide during the program’s history. The dashboard is a GIS technology that allows viewers to query projects by watershed, school district, year, and legislative district.

This platform is a great way to show how the funds are dispersed throughout the state for tree projects and to engage the public on areas where focus funding projects might help increase tree canopy. The new dashboard is viewable by the public at: de.gov/treegrantdashboard or delawaretrees.com



Delaware’s Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided more than \$1.75 million for 577 community tree projects.

LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Private Land Management

The Delaware Forest Service assists private landowners in all aspects of forest management, ranging from tree planting and timber stand improvement to long-term management plans. In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service supervised the planting of 135,450 seedlings on a total of 180 acres of private land. All three sites were mixed pine and hardwood afforestation. Seedlings are acquired from the Maryland Forest Service nursery in Preston and planted under the direction of DFS staff by private contractors.

Forest Stewardship Program

The Delaware Forest Stewardship Program introduces landowners to innovative land management techniques. Any resident who owns up to 1,000 acres of forested land, or land that can be converted to forestland, is eligible for assistance. Delaware's Forest Stewardship Program began in June 1992 in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Program. The Forest Stewardship Committee, which consists of landowners, foresters, and natural resource managers, helps guide and promote the program. The Delaware Forest Service assists landowners on stewardship planning, offers advice on tree species, tree planting, and timber stand improvement. This year, state service foresters prepared 23 stewardship plans for properties in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties that included management goals and prescriptions for 2,390 acres of land and supervised pre-commercial thinning on three sites.

CREP Program

In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service continued its partnership with the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to further its forested buffer goals and monitor existing CREP sites for compliance. The DFS is currently exploring options to expand its role in CREP to match an expected increase in funding for the program through 2021.

State-Funded Cost Share Program

In FY06, the General Assembly established a state-funded forestry cost share program totaling \$75,000, which the Delaware Forest Service generates from cropland leases and timber sale revenues. The program supports the forest industry on the Delmarva Peninsula and benefits Delaware's communities and private landowners. The funding is divided between cost-share assistance to landowners (reimbursing them 50 percent of actual costs) for forest management and grants to communities for tree planting and tree management projects on public land.



The Delaware Forest Service supervised the planting of 135,450 seedlings on a total of 180 acres of private land.



FOREST PROTECTION

Another major challenge for Delaware's forests is their long-term health. Every year, hundreds of acres of forest are affected by wildfire, exotic species, or pests such as the gypsy moth, dogwood anthracnose, or the southern pine beetle. Improperly conducted timber harvests and other forest management activities can also adversely impact the forest as well as important resources such as water quality.

WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM

The Delaware Forest Service maintains a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to assist local volunteer fire companies with wildfire suppression and prevention on Delaware's one million acres of undeveloped land, which includes 380,000 forested acres. Delaware's volunteer fire companies can request the assistance of Delaware Forest Service personnel, when needed, for wildland fire suppression.

The DFS provided 19 trained state personnel and 69 casual-hire wildland firefighters, three wildland fire dozers equipped with fire plows to establish firebreaks, two Type 6 wildland fire engines, four UTV's equipped with 75 gallons tanks and ignition equipment, and wildland fire suppression tools such as fire rakes, hose, and collapsible backpack water tanks.

The Delaware Forest Service responded to 11 wildfires on nearly 17 acres and was on standby for over 752 outdoor fires.

The Delaware Forest Service responded to 11 wildfires that burned nearly 17 wooded and marsh acres and was on standby for over 752 outdoor fires throughout New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties. The past several years have been considered to be below normal for wildfire behavior due to moisture, temperatures, and fuels.

Volunteer Fire Assistance

In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service assisted 82% of Delaware's volunteer fire companies (49/60) with wildfire suppression, loaning of equipment, and/or training. Volunteer fire companies are vital to wildland fire response and suppression in our state thanks to their large numbers, which contribute to the majority of the manpower that is seen during suppression efforts.

To aid in the response to VFC requests, the Delaware Forest Service maintains two fire equipment supply caches, one at Blackbird State Forest (Smyrna) and one at Redden State Forest (Georgetown). In addition to these supply caches the Delaware Forest Service has two type 6 engines, three fire plows, and four UTVs with slip-in tanks and ignition equipment that are available to help with wildfires.



Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

In FY20, six volunteer fire companies received \$18,862 through the VFA grant program, which helps underwrite the acquisition for the cost of pumps, hoses, and equipment to respond and suppress wildfires. Several VFC's this year utilized the or funding to repair worn and outdated skid units which are used solely for wildland fire response. The DFS's goal for this funding is to outfit VFC's with the best available equipment so that they can safely and effectively suppress wildland fires in the first state.



VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANTS

FIRE COMPANY	CITY	COUNTY	AWARD
Volunteer Hose Company (27)	Middletown	New Castle	\$4,500
Farmington Volunteer Fire Co. (47)	Farmington	Kent	\$1,100
Hartly Volunteer Fire Co. (51)	Hartly	Kent	\$4,196
Laurel Fire Department (81)	Laurel	Sussex	\$3,740
Millsboro Volunteer Fire Co. (83)	Millsboro	Sussex	\$3,816
Selbyville Volunteer Fire Co. (88)	Selbyville	Sussex	\$1,510
		TOTAL	\$18,862



Hartly Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief James Read (at left) and Chief James Fox (right) received a ceremonial check for \$4,196 from assistant state forester Kyle Hoyd (center) to help purchase wildfire equipment and tools.



From left, Michael Schusteritsch, 2nd Assistant Chief at Middletown’s Volunteer Hose Company (27), accepts a ceremonial check for \$4,500 from the Delaware Forest Service’s James Dowd for the purchase of wildfire equipment and tools.



Phragmites poses a wildfire risk to coastal communities.

Hazard Mitigation

Each year, the Wildland Fire Program offers cost-share assistance grants and technical assistance to communities to reduce the danger of wildfires. These funds are used to control phragmites in high priority areas through mechanical and chemical treatments. The Delaware Forest Service works to control this highly invasive plant through the use of herbicide which is applied annually between August and the first week of October. Once that process is complete, mechanical treatments and/or prescribed fire can be used to remove the unwanted-dead vegetation. This process generally takes place for a 3- to 4-year period or until the communities in need can begin to manage it on their own. The goal of the program is to help with technical and financial assistance during the initial period and then transition to providing technical and educational assistance after that time.

For FY20, the DFS provided assistance to six hazard mitigation projects (phragmites) for the communities of: Peninsula, Blackwater Village, Town of Slaughter Beach, Pot Nets, Prime Hook Partnerships, and Prime Hook Condo Association. A total of 270 acres were treated through the program this year and helped leverage an additional 5,506 acres to be treated around these communities, at no cost to the program thanks to partnerships with DNREC and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

PA-MACC Mid-Atlantic Coordination Center Opening



The Delaware Forest Service joined staff from Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and the U.S. Forest Service for the opening of a new regional dispatch center in Harrisburg, PA.



Prescribed Fire

The Delaware Forest Service began FY20 with a successful prescribed burning program, completing RX burns on a total of 158 acres, all of which were on state and federal lands. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our larger main prescribed fires that were scheduled for early 2020 were canceled due to social distancing guidelines. A total of 379 acres were affected from the pandemic.



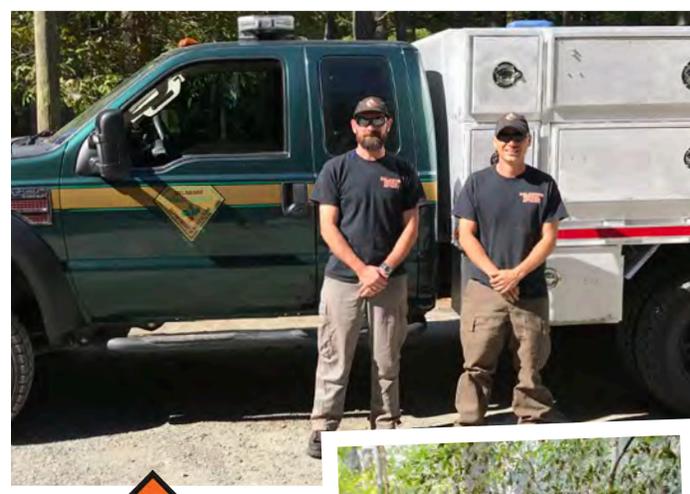
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Rx Burn

The Delaware Forest Service worked with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on a burn to enhance wildlife habitat at Bombay Hook on March 5, 2020.



Delaware Type 6 Engine Crew in North Carolina

From left, Adam Keever and Samuel Topper served on Delaware's Type 6 Engine in North Carolina.



Delaware's Type 6 engine at the Panther Top Lookout in Nantahala National Forest near Murphy, North Carolina.

Engine Crews and Single Resources

The Delaware Forest Service also dispatched its Type 6 engine and two single resources to incidents throughout the country:

- Samuel Topper and Adam Keever served on Delaware's Type 6 Engine in North Carolina responding to Initial attack activities during the months of September and October.
- John Petersen served as an Expanded Dispatch Recorder (EDRC) at the Eastern Area Coordination Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in July.
- Jimmy Kroon was a GIS Specialist (GISS) in Alaska on the Swan Lake Fire during August and September.

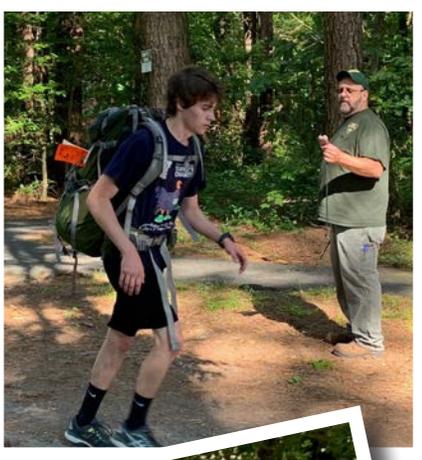


Jimmy Kroon at the Swan Lake Fire in Alaska.

John Petersen at EACC in Milwaukee.

Pack Tests at Blackbird Forest

All firefighters must pass the work capacity or “pack test” by carrying a 45-pound pack over a three-mile course in less than 45 minutes.



Wildfire Training

The Delaware Forest Service hosted its basic suite of classes to 47 rookie wildland firefighters at the Department of Agriculture building in early 2020. This training was the classroom training that is required to become a basic wildland fire fighter (FFT-2). Our annual wildland fire camp was canceled due to COVID-19 guidance however a virtual fire camp was required for all rookie and veteran fire fighters that were looking to be eligible (red card status) for the 2020 fire season. A total of 89 rookie and veteran fire fighters completed the virtual fire camp. In addition to these classes, 12 staff completed advanced level wildland fire classes so that they can advance their qualifications and be able to provide more assistance to communities and states in need.

Wildfire Crew Assignments

The Delaware Forest Service mobilized a Type 2 IA crew which was to be assigned to prepositioning in Oregon, however, the resource order was canceled and the crew returned home less than 24 hours after departure. Due to the fire season being moderately light, their services were not needed for the remainder of the year.



Delaware's Type 2IA wildfire crew mobilized for an assignment in Oregon.

FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM



Forest health specialist Bill Seybold visited Central Middle School in Dover for its annual Career Day event for students.



Aerial Forest Health Survey

The DFS uses aerial and ground surveys, along with permanent forested plots, to monitor the ongoing health of our forests.

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) works with landowners, state and federal agencies, and educational institutions to conduct forest pest surveys and provide technical assistance. Foresters emphasize a range of prevention strategies to minimize the destructive effects of serious forest pests. The DFS also uses aerial and ground surveys along with permanent forested plots to monitor the health of our forests annually.

The DFS conducted 81 insect and disease diagnosis visits to landowners and five educational programs to 268 students.

Technical Assistance

In FY20, the DFS conducted 81 insect and disease diagnosis visits to landowners and homeowners. Our forest health specialist provided five insect, disease, and educational programs to 268 students.

Southern Pine Beetle (SPB)

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is a native pest that can occasionally build up to destructive population levels in Delaware's pine forests. In the spring of 2020 Delaware continued to participate in the Southwide Southern Pine Beetle Pheromone study with five traps at permanent locations in Sussex County loblolly pine stands. Past years had used four trap locations, however, in 2019 a trap location at Cape Henlopen State Park was added to the study. The five southwide traps collected a total of 42 SPBs over a seven-week period. This number indicates a low or declining SPB population.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is an invasive pest that has killed street trees in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Chicago, Illinois. This potentially harmful insect is native to Japan, Korea, and southern China. Unlike other longhorned beetles that attack stressed, diseased, and dying trees, ALB attacks and kills healthy trees. Consequently, there is concern that this exotic insect will become a major pest in North America. Asian longhorned beetles attack maple (*Acer*) trees, including Norway, red, sugar, and silver maple, and boxelder, as well as horse-chestnut (*Aesculus*), willow (*Salix*), and 10 other genera.



The DFS continued to monitor for ALB in 2020 with nine large panel traps placed throughout the state, focusing on industrial areas in the northern half of the state. The DFS has also installed "sentinel" maple plantings in six New Castle County parks to help foresters and the public get an early alert of ALB if they move into the area. To date, no ALB has been found.

Gypsy Moth

In June of 2020, the aerial detection survey discovered an area of approximately 40 acres of heavy defoliation by gypsy moth larvae of sweetgum in a mixed maple/gum/loblolly pine stand on Frankford School Road about 3 miles east of Frankford. During the follow-up ground survey, probably at least 100 acres of light and spotty defoliation was noted in the surrounding areas of maple/sweetgum stands due to either gypsy moth or forest tent caterpillar feeding.



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

This Asian flatheaded borer continues to spread, having reached the Eastern Shore of Maryland by spring of 2015. An adult beetle was found on a purple panel trap south of Hockessin in late summer of 2016, resulting in Delaware being included in the federal EAB quarantine area shortly after positive identification of the beetle. Additional adult EAB beetles were detected on panel traps in the summer of 2018 in New Castle County. EAB larvae were recovered from dying ash trees near Seaford in July of 2018. In late June and early July 2020, Kent County joined New Castle and Sussex with two sites discovered to have EAB. One site a few miles east of Marydel was found through the aerial survey. Brecknock Park in Dover was found to have EAB nearby (probably within 1/3 of a mile) through an innovative technique that looks at the buprestid (the family of beetles to which EAB belongs) prey items of ground nesting wasps often found in baseball infields. The DFS advises owners of high value landscape ash trees to consider commencing an insecticide treatment plan with a certified arborist in advance of this oncoming threat.



Sirex Wood Wasp

An exotic wood wasp, *Sirex noctilio*, was first found in Oswego County, New York in 2004. It has since been detected in northern Pennsylvania, northern Ohio, Connecticut, Michigan, Vermont, as well as southern Ontario and Quebec. The wasp attacks pine trees and represents a serious potential threat to Delaware's loblolly pine resource. Adults can disperse 20 miles or more. Delaware began a survey program in 2006 using Lindgren funnel traps baited with chemical lures. As of late summer and fall of 2019, *Sirex* wood wasp monitoring continued with nine trap sites throughout Delaware, but *Sirex noctilio* has not been found in the state.



Defoliation by gypsy moth caterpillars near Frankford, Sussex County was detected by an aerial survey (below).



Forest health specialist Bill Seybold inspects an ash tree for signs of emerald ash borer, such as its classic "D-shaped" exit hole (below).



EAB at Brecknock Park near Dover was detected using a ground-nesting wasp that preys on buprestid beetles.

American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is a common tree recognized by its smooth gray bark. The tree is susceptible to Beech Bark Disease (BBD) and Beech Leaf Disease (BLD), which have not been found here yet.



Bacterial leaf scorch, which affects most oaks in the red oak groups, is prevalent in all three counties. Infected trees in landscape settings usually die within about 10 years.



Beech Bark Disease (BBD) and Beech Leaf Disease (BLD)

American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is a common tree easily recognized by its smooth gray bark. A stately forest tree, beech provides food for deer, squirrels, and, in much of its range, black bears. Unfortunately, a non-native disease complex called beech bark disease has killed millions of beech trees in the northeast.

Currently found from Canada to the Appalachians as far as West Virginia, BBD begins with infestation by a scale insect, followed by infection of a destructive fungus. Most of the beech trees in infested stands die within a few years. Four permanent natural beech forest plots in northern and central Delaware are surveyed annually for BBD. At each site, at least 20 beech trees are inspected. Fortunately, beech bark disease has not been detected in Delaware to date.

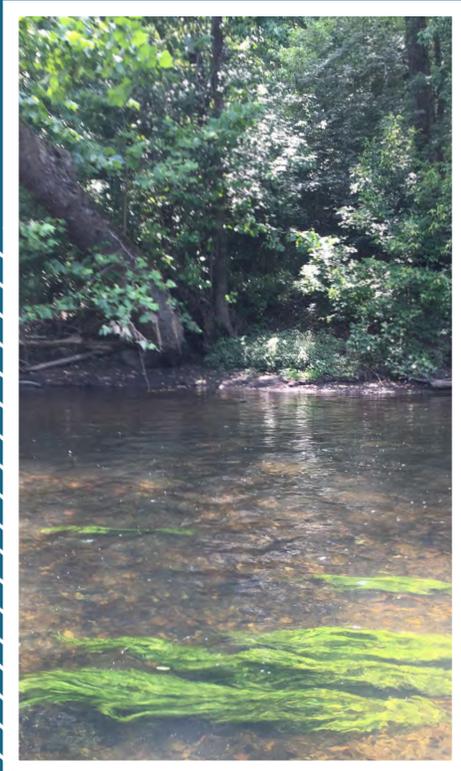
Beech leaf disease (BLD) is another forest health issue of beech discovered in Lake County, Ohio in 2012. BLD involves striping or banding of a thicker and darker than normal tissue between veins on beech leaves. Though research continues, there is strong evidence that nematodes are involved. Because BLD is moving quickly through beech stands in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Ontario; the forest health program has begun to survey for BLD at the same permanent plots as are used for BBD. No BLD has been detected in the state as of June 2020.

Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS)

Bacterial leaf scorch is caused by a bacteria (*Xylella fastidiosa*) that can only grow in the xylem of several species of plants (including, notably, most oaks in the red oak group) or in the gut of certain insect vectors such as leaf and treehoppers. During the late summer, infected trees show a distinctive marginal leaf scorch. Reduced water flow in the xylem of affected trees causes them to suffer from stress and eventual crown dieback, making them more susceptible to insects and diseases.

There is no known cure or effective treatment (other than reducing water stress with irrigation and mulching) to this disease and infected trees in landscape settings usually die within about 10 years. DFS tree sampling in the mid-2000s showed the disease occurring throughout the state. Permanent plots set up at each of the three state forests (Blackbird, Taber, and Redden) showed the disease is also prevalent in natural oak forests (with a red oak component) in all three counties. Each year, the marked trees at the plots are re-visited and effects of BLS on the leaves, canopy dieback, and survival rate are noted. It is theorized that BLS may be one contributing factor to the red oak decline noted by many forest health experts, at least from the Mid-Atlantic on southward where BLS occurs. The most recent surveys for BLS occurred in September of 2019. Heavier than normal precipitation appears to have kept BLS symptoms of red oaks mostly at bay this last year again.

In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service issued 82 permits on 3,421 acres and conducted 74 site inspections.



WATERSHED PROTECTION

Forestry Practice Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Law

DFS foresters review E&S permits for all silvicultural operations over one acre and provide educational materials and programs to landowners and loggers. By using Best Management Practices, such as forested buffers along waterways, water quality is protected by minimizing erosion and sedimentation. The program stresses the importance of properly conducted activities on forestlands that contain or are near open water through presale inspections and educating loggers on the need to protect water quality.

In FY20, the Delaware Forest Service issued 82 permits on 3,421 acres and conducted 74 site inspections. The biggest percentage of these activities was in Sussex County (37 of 82 projects), followed by Kent County (37), and New Castle County (8). One of the Forest Service's performance measures is to increase the percentage of timber harvests on nonindustrial private forestlands (NIPF) that follow a forest management plan. While all harvests must have an approved E&S permit, Delaware does not require a forest management plan for them. In FY20, 45.3 percent (1,004 of 2,218 acres) of NIPF harvests remaining forested had plans.

Seed Tree Law

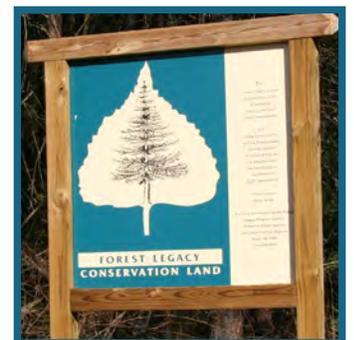
The DFS also administers the Delaware Seed Tree Law that applies to all forested tracts of 10 acres or more with a combination of at least 25 percent loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, pond pine, or yellow-poplar. Landowners with woodlands that meet these guidelines must provide for reforestation of these lands unless there are at least 400 healthy, well-distributed seedlings present on each acre following the harvest. In FY20, 24 harvests totaling 1,575 acres were approved under the Seed Tree Law. The Delaware Forest Service will continue to monitor these properties to ensure proper reforestation.

Forest Legacy Program

For FY20, Delaware's Forest Legacy Program (FLP) developed new targeted areas for expansion and a revised Assessment of Need (AON). Both tasks took considerable effort from our local, state, federal, and nonprofit partners, who helped identify high priority forested blocks for fee simple or conservation easement purchases. Five new areas were added along with one expansion area to the existing four established in 1998. Most of the areas tie into local, state, or nonprofit lands, which allows DFS and its partners to conserve larger blocks of working forest lands for future generations and Delaware's forest industry.

Open Space Program

The Delaware Forest Service continued to improve upon previous open space property purchases by adding wildlife food plots, trails, and access for recreational use. In addition, DFS updated forest inventories so that forest productivity can be maximized on these new parcels and incorporated into each state forest's management plan. Thanks to funding from Delaware's Open Space Program, the DFS purchased three properties in Sussex County from ABC Woodlands in FY20 for \$1.58 million: 41 acres on S. Old State Road, 141 acres on Beaver Dam Road, and 302 acres on Raccoon Ditch Road. The DFS also acquired nine acres on Rum Bridge Road for \$40,000. Open Space funding also enabled the DFS to sign a contract to purchase the 49-acre Howard Katz property in Kent County, which will be part of Blackbird State Forest.



FORESTRY EDUCATION

The lack of public knowledge about the importance of our forests, and the professional services available to assist landowners and communities with forest management, is our third major challenge. Many landowners and community leaders are unaware of the various Delaware Forest Service programs that can help them manage their forest resources. Many are also not aware of the educational and recreational opportunities at our State Forests.

DELAWARE STATE FORESTS

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) is committed to providing and expanding on the many educational, recreational, and demonstration opportunities on more than 20,000 acres at Blackbird, Redden, and Taber State Forests. These valuable public resources are managed for a variety of objectives, including wildlife habitat, recreation, timber production, natural resource education, and water quality.

Blackbird State Forest

Blackbird State Forest, located northwest of Smyrna, covers almost 6,000 acres. The ten tracts of Blackbird State Forest are open to the public for nature walks, hiking, jogging, and horseback riding all year. It features a 1/2-mile, wheelchair-accessible wildlife and nature interpretation trail on the Tybout Tract and the Blackbird Education Center on the Meadows Tract. Long-range management plans for Blackbird State Forest include timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation, soil and water protection, wetland and endangered species protection, and public education.

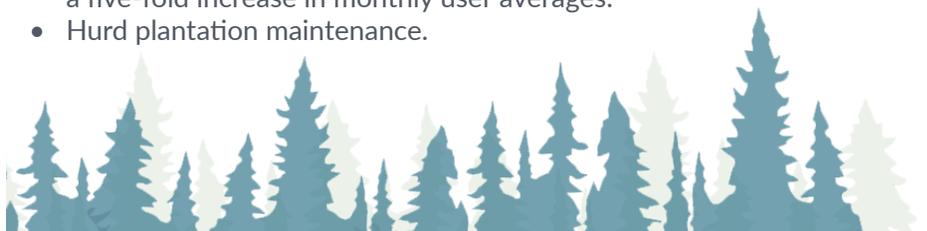
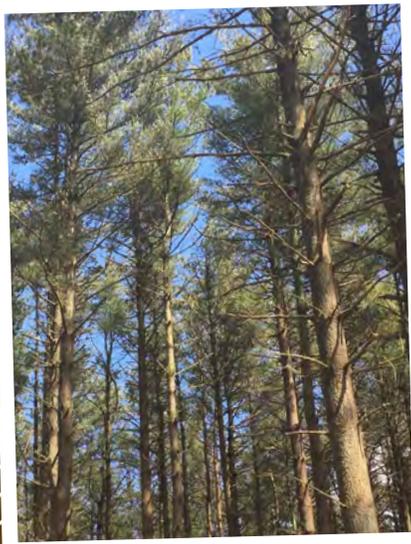
The DFS manages over 20,000 acres of state forest for wildlife, recreation, timber, education, and water quality.

Blackbird Forest Education Center

In FY20, the staff continued providing educational programs at the Blackbird State Forest Education Center on the Meadows Tract. Complementing the facility at Redden State Forest, the center has two meeting spaces and interactive displays.

Blackbird State Forest Highlights

- Tybout Tract – new 3.5-mile Red Trail loop.
- Meadows Tract – new 2-mile Orange Trail loop.
- Record number of users in Spring 2020 with a five-fold increase in monthly user averages.
- Hurd plantation maintenance.



In FY20, DFS staff completed 70 acres of prescribed fire at Redden State Forest.



Taber State Forest

Taber State Forest is located west of Harrington on Burrsville Road and remains in its natural, primitive state. The 1,309-acre forest is open to the public for hiking, observing wildlife, and seasonal hunting.

- In FY20, staff continued to add acreage into planted food plots for wildlife.
- Increased area available to turkey hunters by 30 percent.
- Started updating the Forest Management Plan for Taber State Forest.
- Mowed multiple firebreaks in anticipation of prescribed fire.

Redden State Forest

Redden State Forest, located north of Georgetown, totals approximately 13,969 acres. These forest lands are managed on a multiple-use basis, including timber production, wildlife habitat improvement, soils and water quality enhancement and protection, and recreational use.

Redden State Forest and the historic Redden Lodge continue to be popular sites for special events, meetings, and conferences. Groups holding annual meetings, events, and training were:

USAF Delaware Air National Guard; Delaware Army National Guard; 4-H Horse Advisory Council; DHSS Georgetown Center, Woodside Center, and 1st State Senior Center annual Halloween party; Delaware Equine Council; Delmarva Driving Club Annual Rides; 4-H University of Delaware annual pumpkin contest, youth retreat, and counselor training; Boy Scouts of America camping, badge projects, and field exercises; various church group retreats; various state agency meetings; Gee You Will Project annual retreat and meeting; Del-Tech Upward Bound math and science event; Del-Tech Summer Camp Fishing 101; FFA retreat and training; Antique Auto Club annual show and picnic; Delaware State Police; Delaware Department of Corrections; local Delmarva police departments; Delmarva Search and Rescue K-9 training; DNREC Fish and Wildlife's "Take a Kid Fishing Day"; American Discovery Trail hikers and campers; various equine group benefit rides; various bird watching groups and tours; various forestry walking tours; Delaware Easy Striders; and the 1900 Club H.A.M. radio operator emergency communication exercise.

Redden State Forest Highlights

- Acquired 524 acres of forest land, consisting of additions to Barr Tract, Ellendale Tract and Tunnel Tract.
- Completed a 549-acre pulpwood sale that was sold in November 2017 involving stands on the Ellendale, Jester, and Sill Tracts.
- Completed 70 acres of prescribed fire on Ellendale, Headquarters, Jester and J.G. Townsend Tract.

Smyrna-Clayton Girl Scout Troop #1222 visited Blackbird's Forest Education Center and learned about entomology and forestry from trainer-educator Ashley Melvin.



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Information and Education Office coordinates all of the Delaware Forest Service's information and education activities. Staffed by a full-time Community Relations Officer and Trainer-Educator, it informs the public of the agency's services and provides quality environmental education programs.

Education Centers

The Delaware Forest Service operates and manages education centers at Redden State Forest and Blackbird State Forest. Both house a variety of interactive displays on Delaware's forests and their proper management, with comfortable work areas for students and teachers to participate in educational activities. Each center has a classroom for indoor meetings and outdoor educational trails for a more dynamic learning experience.

Arbor Day Overview

The Delaware Forest Service sponsors annual Arbor Day activities including a poster contest and free seedling program and also presents Arbor Day and tree education programs in schools statewide in April.

Arbor Day Poster Contest

The Delaware Forest Service invited students in grades K-5 to participate in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. This year's poster theme was "Trees are Terrific...in Many Wonderful Ways." At the time of the poster registration deadline (April 6), 110 classroom teachers from 44 schools in Delaware had registered with the intention of participating in the contest.



Smokey Bear visited Lake Forest South Elementary in Harrington to talk to students about wildfire safety.



Ashley Melvin directs the Smokey Bear Fire Prevention Program.



Fire Prevention

October is National Fire Prevention Month and the Delaware Forest Service provides fire prevention information packets (Smokey Bear Goody Bags) to first grade classrooms. In FY20, more than 5,300 students received Smokey Bear school supply bags featuring Smokey Bear and his timeless message. The Delaware Forest Service also offers fire prevention materials to children and families at community events, holiday parades, and fire company open houses.

In honor of Smokey's 75th birthday, the Delaware Forest Service partnered with Delaware State Parks for a Campfire Safety Program at Lum's Pond State Park and Trap Pond State Park. Smokey also celebrated his 75th birthday at a "story time" at Dover's Public Library with Mayor Robin Christiansen.

In honor of Smokey Bear's 75 years protecting America's forests and wildlands, the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Protection Compact established the Smokey Bear 75th Anniversary GeoTour. The GeoTour is located across the seven states that comprise the Mid-Atlantic Compact: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and has 75 total hidden geocaches. Each geocache represents a unique wildfire perspective or story and has reached thousands of users. The Smokey Bear 75th Anniversary GeoTour has been so successful, the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Protection Compact has renewed another year with the host company.

Community Events & Educational Programs

Throughout the year, the DFS offers special educational programs for students and training programs and presentations for community organizations. In FY20, DFS trainer-educator attended and presented programs and trainings at 27 community events to 3,864 students grades, preK-high school.

Adult Programs

Forest Service staff perform workshops on such topics as grant writing, urban tree care, and GIS/GPS for attendees including state agencies, nature center managers, and community leaders. In FY20, the DFS trainer-educator presented seven lectures on forestry topics to 200 people.

Smokey Bear celebrated his 75th birthday at Harrington's Heritage Day Parade in 2019.



Smokey Bear joined Dover's Fire Department and Mayor Robin Christiansen for a "Story Time" event at the Dover Public Library.



Children in Nature Month:

Ashley Melvin presented a program to “Green Riders” at Brown Elementary in Dover, who learned about trees and participated in a “Schoolyard Safari.”



Go Outside and Play!
Celebrating October as
“Children in Nature Month”



Project Learning Tree

The Delaware Forest Service's trainer-educator works with partner organizations such as the Delaware Association for Environmental Education (DAEE) to promote a wide range of environmental literacy education opportunities for all ages throughout the First State.

Volunteer Corps

The volunteer corps enlists the help of the general public to assist staff with educational activities. In FY20, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) at Dover's Modern Maturity Center in Dover stuffed “goody bags” of Smokey Bear school supplies for more than 5,000 students statewide.



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Personnel/Professional Development

- AA/EEO
- Coaching Skills for Supervisors
- Delaware Sexual Harassment Notice
- DiSC Personal Profile/Behavioral Styles
- DiSC Self Assessment
- Diversity - Food for Thought
- eSTAR Training
- FMLA Policy, Military Leave Policy, Call Back Pay Policy
- Focus on Ability
- Hidden Bias
- HIPAA Training for Members of the HIPAA Workforce
- Leadership Credibility Part 1: The Confidence Base
- Leadership Skills for Women
- Managing Generational Differences
- OMB Open Enrollment
- Policy on Anti-Discrimination, Workplace Harassment and Retaliation
- Respectful Workplace and Anti-discrimination Policy
- Selection Interviewing
- Selective Placement Program
- Sexual Harassment Prevention
- Sexual Harassment Webinar
- The Supervisor's Role
- Unconscious Bias
- Workforce Planning

Cyber-Security

- KnowBe4
- Cybersecurity Training

Finance

- FSF 9.2 PO130 Receipt Entry
- DDA Finance Section Refresher Training
- FSF 9.2 AP101 Voucher Entry & Maintenance

Fire

- Fire Behavior Fuel Models
- 2020 Fire Season Preparedness Module
- A-100 Basic Aviation Safety USFS/DOI
- FEMA IS-700: Introduction to the National Incident Management System
- IFTDSS Overview
- NIMS 700: Introduction to NIMS
- Northern Rockies Heavy Equipment Task Force Use
- RT-130 Fire Refresher
- Wildland Fire Assessment Tools



Gail Ingram-Smith is honored by Secretary Michael T. Scuse on her retirement after 25 years with the Delaware Forest Service.



Forest Management

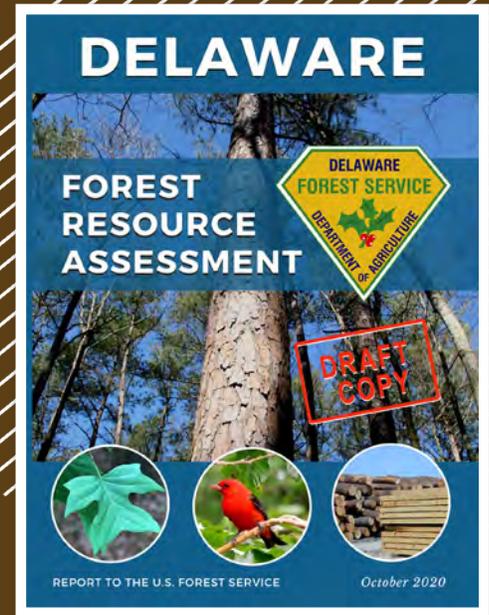
- 9th Annual Arborist & Tree Care Seminar
- CARS Training, U.S. Forest Service
- Forest Taxation: Forest Finance and Timber Tax
- Hazard Tree Identification Simulation, Wildfire Lessons Learned Center
- Pesticide Certification Exam
- Planting Trees for Your Kids Future Canopy, Chesapeake Stormwater Network
- Understanding Forests
- Woodland Stewardship Management Practices for Landowners
- Woody Biomass Energy

DELAWARE FOREST ACTION PLAN

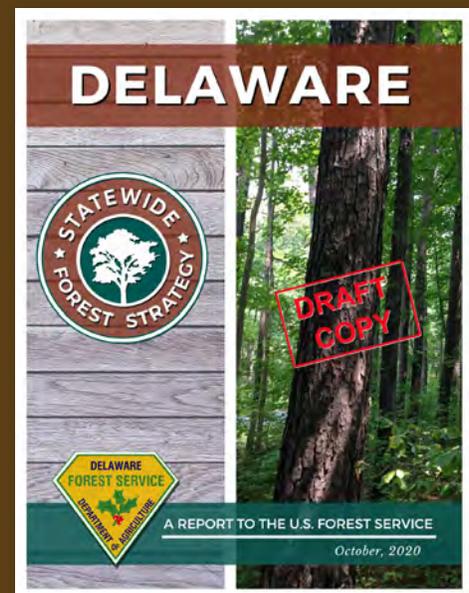
The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFFA) provides the authorities for a broad range of State and Private Forestry programs within the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). As amended by the 2008 Farm Bill, the CFFA requires each state forestry agency to develop a “Statewide Assessment and Strategies for Forest Resources,” collectively referred to as a State Forest Action Plan (SFAP), for eligibility to receive funds under the authorities of the Act. The SFAP provides an analysis of forest conditions and trends, identifies state-level issues and priorities, and outlines strategies to ensure healthy trees and forests into the future.

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) submitted two key planning documents to the USFS in 2010 that together made up the Delaware Forest Action Plan (DFAP): *Delaware Forest Resource Assessment* and *Delaware Statewide Forest Strategy*. The assessment summarized the state of forest resources in Delaware leading up to 2010. Detailed information contained therein served as a guide in developing a strategy for the subsequent ten years with an overarching goal of protecting Delaware forests and all the natural benefits they provide. Using this 2010 Delaware Statewide Forest Strategy as a guide, DFS staff members concentrated their efforts on attaining 78 strategic goals. Nearly all were completed or partially completed (96%) with ongoing efforts to further advance the goals of forest conservation. After ten years of dedicated and targeted work, it was time in FY20 to reassess Delaware forest resources as many changes occurred over the previous ten years. An updated forest resource assessment is essential for the development of a revised strategy complete with new and updated performance goals.

With guidance from the Delaware Forest Stewardship Committee, the DFS completed an updated draft DFAP in FY20. The new version once again includes two sections regarding Delaware’s forest resource: an assessment and a corresponding strategy. The assessment is a detailed evaluation of the forest resource and changes that occurred between 2010 and 2020. It presents a list of priority issues, threats, and opportunities based on the most current forest inventory data. We then used the assessment for developing a ten-year strategy to address specific issues—forest health and functionality, forest markets, sustainable forest management, and public awareness and appreciation of forests. Embedded within 22 broadly identified strategies are 105 performance goals or measures of success specifically designed to address Delaware threats and opportunities. This plan will help guide the DFS and numerous stakeholders and partners in ensuring the health and vitality of Delaware’s forests for years to come.



The plan is a ten-year strategy to address specific issues—forest health and functionality, forest markets, sustainable forest management, and public awareness and appreciation of forests.



FISCAL YEAR BUDGET SUMMARY

General Funds

Salaries and associated costs (16.5 positions)	1,216,835
Contractual Services	17,100
Supplies & Materials	20,200
Energy	18,700
Travel	0
General Funds Subtotal	\$1,272,835

Appropriated Special Funds

Salaries and associated costs (2.5 positions)	203,228
Capital Outlay	0
Contractual Services	72,132
Supplies & Materials	73,870
Energy	5,784
Travel	14,837
Revenue Refund	450
Appropriated Special Funds Subtotal	\$370,301

Federally Funded Cooperative Programs *

* (includes funding for 3 positions)

Forest Health Protection:

Forest Health Management	50,000
Forest Health Monitoring	23,000

Cooperative Fire Protection:

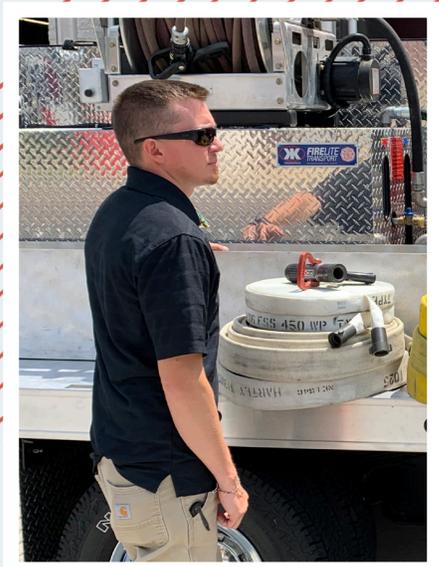
State Fire Assistance	113,277
Volunteer Fire Assistance	28,963

Cooperative Forestry:

Urban and Community Forestry	200,000
Forest Stewardship	61,520
Forest Legacy Administration	0
Chesapeake Bay Watershed	21,880
Conservation Reserve Program Sign-up 51	4,332

Federally Funded Programs Subtotal \$502,972

Total Fiscal 2020 Budget \$2,146,108



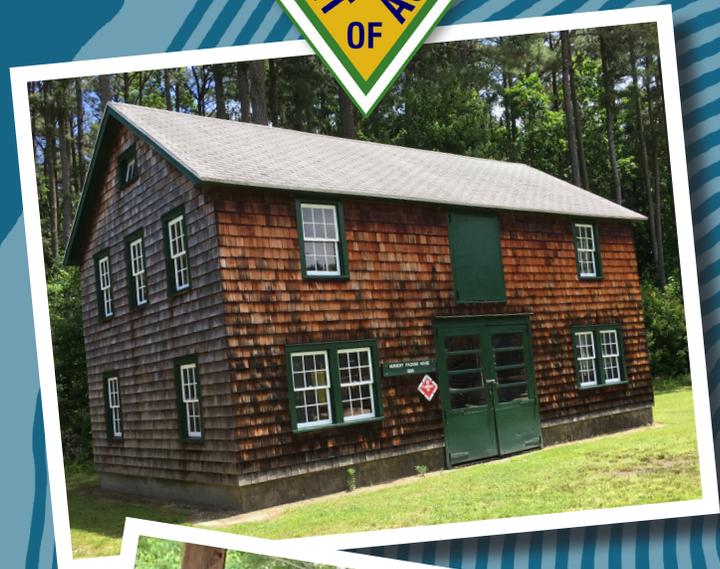
OUR BRANCHES ARE HERE FOR YOU



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STAFF DIRECTORY

TOLL FREE NUMBER	800-282-8685
Headquarters (Dover)	302-698-4500
Forestland Preservation	302-698-4548
Urban and Community	302-698-4578
Blackbird State Forest	302-653-6505
Redden State Forest	302-856-2893
Forest Health Specialist	302-698-4553
Educational Programs	302-698-4551
Wildfire Program	302-698-4548
Landowner Assistance	302-856-2893
Community Relations	302-698-4552



DelForestService



DelawareForests



DelawareForests



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