

3808 Augusta Ave  
Richmond, VA 23230  
www.vaforestry.org



Phone: (804) 278-8733  
Fax: (804) 278-8774  
E-mail: vfa@vaforestry.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 13, 2022**

**Contact: Anne Taylor**  
**804-278-8733**  
**ataylor@vaforestry.org**

### **MATT DOWDY NAMED VFA OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

**Richmond, VA** – The Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) awarded Matt Dowdy of Dowdy’s Forestry and Land Management with its 2022 Outstanding Member of the Year Award during the 2022 Virginia Forestry Summit in Blacksburg, Virginia. VFA’s Outstanding Member of the Year Award recognizes an individual for their outstanding contributions in the area of conservation, utilization and enhancement of Virginia’s forest resources. It is given to honor a Virginia Forestry Association member who has gone “above and beyond” their normal duties and responsibilities to render service to, and promote the interests of, Virginia forestry, and/or has fostered greater public awareness and understanding of the forests of the Commonwealth and the contributions which they make to all Virginia citizens.

A 1992 graduate of Virginia Tech, he started Dowdy’s Forestry and Land Management in 2007. He has served multiple terms on the VFA Board of Directors and continues to be heavily involved on the *Virginia Forests* Magazine Editorial Committee, where he authors an entertaining and thought-provoking “Tailgate Talk” every quarter. Mr. Dowdy is an active member of the Association of Consulting Foresters, serving as Chair of the Virginia Chapter in 2018 and 2019, and has also served as Chair of the Skyline Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

Beyond his association service, Mr. Dowdy is a proud supporter of Log a Load for Kids, a non-profit, grassroots fundraising organization supporting local Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals throughout Virginia and the United States. He has dedicated countless hours to youth forestry education across the Commonwealth, organizing a two-day professional development program for Virginia middle and high school science teachers to gain exposure to forestry and land management called Teaching Trees. The program is a two-day, hands-on class on forestry that includes tours of logging jobs, demonstrations of silvicultural practices, and making paper.

A 2016 story from *Charlottesville Tomorrow* most aptly captures Mr. Dowdy’s passion for forestry education: “I love the forest. Trees are my life, I pretty much think about trees every day,” Dowdy said. “I want to show that we want to keep [forests] sustainable and keep them managed so future generations can enjoy them and get the products or enjoy the trees.”

###

#### **About Virginia Forestry Association:**

Founded in 1943, the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a not-for-profit organization that represents Virginia’s diverse forestry community and promotes the sustainable use and conservation of forest resources to ensure their long-term benefits for all Virginians. VFA’s membership of more than 1,000 companies and individuals includes landowners, foresters, forest products businesses, loggers, forestry

President  
**Stephanie O. Grubb**  
Pawleys Island, SC

Vice President  
**Daniel J. Hockenberger**  
West Point, VA



Treasurer  
**Christina R. Hager**  
Richmond, VA

Executive Director  
**Corey J. Connors**  
Richmond, VA

3808 Augusta Ave  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[www.vaforestry.org](http://www.vaforestry.org)



Phone: (804) 278-8733  
Fax: (804) 278-8774  
E-mail: [vfa@vaforestry.org](mailto:vfa@vaforestry.org)

consultants, and stakeholders who value the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources as a driver of ecological, economic, and social prosperity in Virginia. Learn more at [www.vaforestry.org](http://www.vaforestry.org).

President  
**Stephanie O. Grubb**  
Pawleys Island, SC

Vice President  
**Daniel J. Hockenberger**  
West Point, VA



Treasurer  
**Christina R. Hager**  
Richmond, VA

Executive Director  
**Corey J. Connors**  
Richmond, VA