



# MARYLAND FOREST SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





# A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FORESTER

*It is widely known that trees and forests take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. This occurs through the process known as photosynthesis. Trees and forests are nature's storage units for carbon dioxide, helping to clean the air and reduce the negative effects carbon dioxide can have on our environment. Planting more trees across our state, managing our existing forests to ensure they are healthy and growing vigorously, and fostering a vibrant forest products industry are key components of forestry's contributions to the state's climate goals.*

*The Forest Service continues to advance these goals and so much more, as demonstrated in all of the many activities highlighted in this Annual Report. Thanks for taking a look!*

- Kenneth Jolly, State Forester



Kenneth Jolly  
State Forester



Wes Moore, Governor | Josh Kurtz, Secretary

**COVER PHOTOS**, clockwise from left: Green Ridge State Forest, Rock Church Academy youth joined Forest Service staff for a Nature Ranger program, Stoney Demonstration Forest trail, Middletown tree planting in October 2022  
Photo on this page: Log Roll Overlook on Green Ridge State Forest (photo by Julie Conway)

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## OVERVIEW

**2,290,625 seedlings** grown and shipped by the John S. Ayton State Forest Tree Nursery for the 2022 planting season

**2,394 roadside tree permits** issued due to utility work, development and roadwork

**60+ Tree City USA awards** given out

**408 Tree Farm inspections** on 57,015 acres

**73,126 bare-root tree seedlings** given away to the public for Backyard Buffers

**27 landowner or forestry professionals** profiled as part of Faces of Forestry, a Maryland Forests Association partnership project with the Maryland Forest Service. Click on link below!

## NEW TERMS

**EAS: Economic Adjustment Strategy**  
Collaborative effort between Maryland Forest Service, Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council, and Agricultural Community Development Services LLC to reinvigorate forestry products industry

**5MT: 5 Million Trees Initiative**  
The Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021 calls for 5 million trees to be planted by 2031. 13 new forestry staff are being added as part of the initiative's kickoff.

[www.mdforests.org/blog/categories/faces-of-forestry](http://www.mdforests.org/blog/categories/faces-of-forestry)



# URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY NEWS & NUMBERS



**DOT grant opportunities!** As part of the 5 million tree movement, the Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland Urban & Community Forest Committee joined forces in creating the MDOT Urban Tree Program. Their goal: plant trees in urban areas facing heat island effects and environmental justice issues, and where trees were removed for transportation projects to be built.

**7,927 trees** sold by Tree-Mendous for planting on public land

**6,924 trees** purchased through Marylanders Plant Trees, helping local nurseries and private property owners

**Over \$55,000 donated** to Gift of Trees, generous gifts resulting in over 1,300 trees planted

**100+ PLANT ("People Loving And Nurturing Trees") community tree care awards** given

A TREEmendous hike and plant event hosted 30 hikers from Destination Hike, a hiking club based in Prince George's County, who planted 30+ trees as part of the Forest Service's innovative outreach.

An urban and community forestry first! All four Historically Black Colleges and Universities in our state celebrated Arbor Day in 2022. University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Bowie State, Coppin State and Morgan State universities all conducted tree planting events on campus.



Photo: Forest Service staff loading TREEmendous trees on a trailer to transport to a tree planting event



Above: First place Arbor Day poster for 2021; left: first place poster for 2022

## Annual Arbor Day Photo Contest

**2022:** Maeve Frasca of Baltimore City (first place), Arynn Brooks of Waldorf, Charles County (second place), Alexis Horichs of Westminster, Carroll County (third place)

**2021:** Luke Etter of Hampstead, Carroll County (first place), Kaitlyn Johnson of Myersville, Frederick County (second place), Henry Crawford of Flintstone, Allegany County (third place)



# STEWARDSHIP NEWS & NUMBERS



**35 acres of planting maintenance training** through Alliance for Chesapeake Bay's Riparian Ranger program at event sponsored by Washington County Sierra Club

In an interagency first, the **Board of Public Works** toured forestry sites to review sustainable forest management practices

**25 acres of tree planting** in partnership with Trout Unlimited in Savage River State Forest, to restore and protect a brook trout watershed

University of Maryland Eastern Shore students and University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners were among the guests at an agroforestry demonstration site in Queen Anne's County.

**Pictured:** Partnering with Mt. Pleasant Acres Farms, the Maryland Forests Association, and Maryland Park Service's Maryland Conservation Corps, the Maryland Forest Service planted a berry grove and future food forest funded by a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant.

**500 red spruce** planted at Potomac-Garrett State Forest to reintroduce rare species back into forest ecosystem

**2-year timber salvage harvest** in a 70-acre area of Elk Neck State Park

**80 acres** added to Pocomoke Wildlands



# STATE FORESTS NEWS & NUMBERS



Savage River  
State Forest



Stoney  
Demonstration Forest



Potomac-Garrett  
State Forest

**1<sup>st</sup> trail planner position ever** added to Forest Service in 2021

**8,500+ camping reservations** booked

Maintained **11 scenic overlooks, 195+ miles of trails, 690 miles of roads and 1,786 miles of state forest boundaries**

**5.5 miles of new trails** in Garrett State Forest

Partnered with Appalachian Conservation Corps to complete trail maintenance on **17-mile stretch of Big Savage Trail**

**19 consecutive years** of Chesapeake Forest Lands maintaining dual certification for sustainable forest management by Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council

More than **5.1 million board feet of timber** and **138,772 tons of wood** harvested, creating renewable and low-carbon footprint products for people's needs

**180,000+ acres of available public hunting land!**



# LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE NEWS & NUMBERS



**Photos:** (above) seedling planting at Antietam Creek; (below) forester consulting with landowner about their Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program property

**More than 140 acres** enrolled in Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

**838 timber harvest inspections** to ensure proper Sediment and Erosion Control practices

**850+ Forest Stewardship Plans** on over 45,000 acres, guiding sustainable forest management of privately owned forests

**1,322 acres** in American Forests' Family Forest Carbon Program since 2002

**353 new landowners** signed up for the Forest Service's Woodland Incentive Program, covering 15,573 acres of cost-shared practices to manage for healthy forests

**Delmarva Woodland Stewards:** Education and training for landowners through partnership with UMD Extension, developing landscape-scale approaches for managing forests for wildlife habitat and other ecosystem service benefits, and incorporating prescribed burns





# A STORY TO BE TOLD: OUTREACH NEWS & NUMBERS



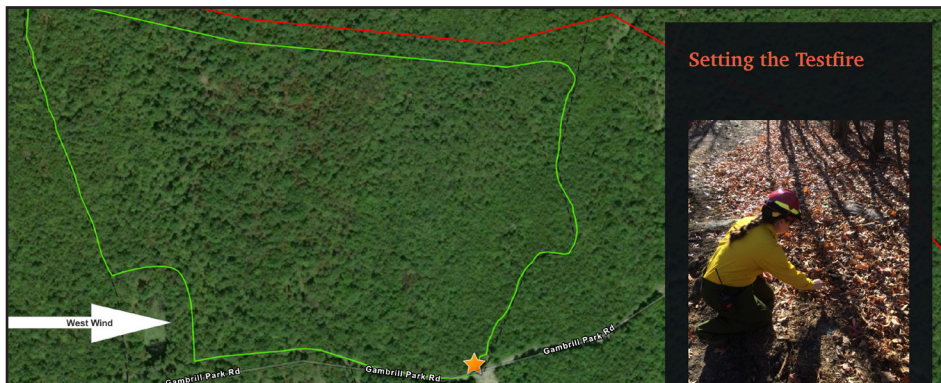
**Photos:** (above) University of Maryland Extension's Wye Center hosted a paw-paw talk and tasting event in collaboration with Forest Service staff who gave an agroforestry presentation to attending landowners.

Forest Service staff gave a tree and seed collection talk to Baltimore City youth at the Greenmount Cemetery with nonprofit colleagues from Interfaith Partnership for the Chesapeake and Tree Baltimore.

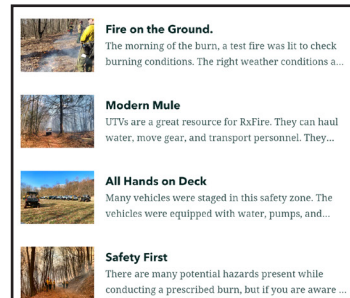
## A Forestry Hub online one-stop shop!

Carried out with a broad partnership, including Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative, the Maryland Forestry and Wood Products website was launched:

Click this link to check it out!  
[maryland-forestry-resources-salisburyu.hub.arcgis.com/](http://maryland-forestry-resources-salisburyu.hub.arcgis.com/)



Left: Pine Swamp Restoration Area storymap  
Right: Dans Mountain prescribed burn storymap



## Mapping Successes (above storymaps)

An ESRI story map was created for Pine Swamp Restoration Area on Frederick City Watershed.

A story map was created for a prescribed burn on Dans Mountain to educate the public on benefits of fire as a management tool on the landscape.

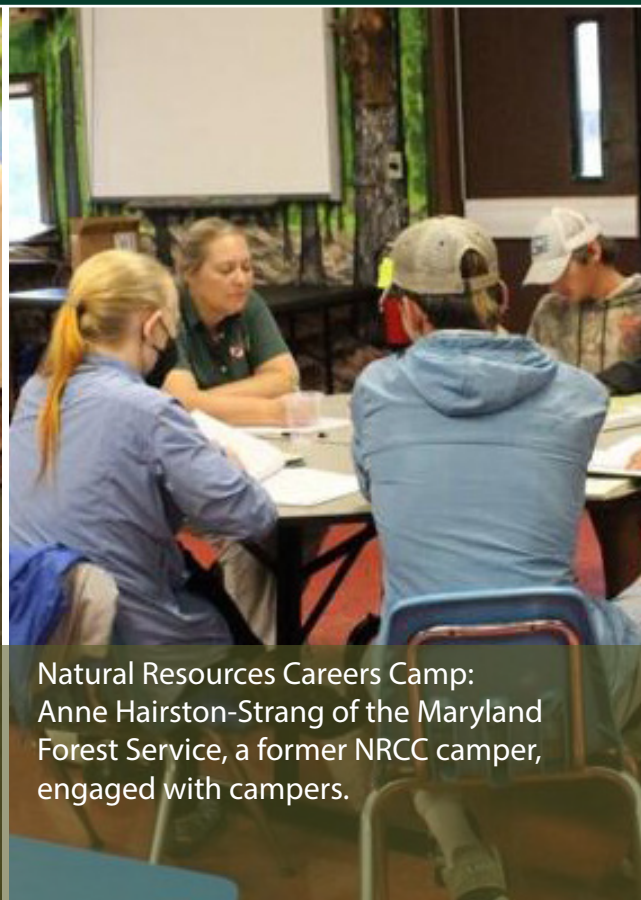


# FORESTRY BOARD AND BIG TREE PROGRAM NEWS & NUMBERS



Natural Resources Careers Camp: Deep Creek Lake State Park provided a Scales & Tales presentation to campers.

Careers Camp photos by NRCC Director Gabrielle D. Oldham



Natural Resources Careers Camp: Anne Hairston-Strang of the Maryland Forest Service, a former NRCC camper, engaged with campers.



New Big Tree Champion, the largest ever eastern white pine in Maryland Big Tree Program history! At 120' tall, with a diameter at breast height of 56 inches, this new Big Tree champion stands far and above any of the closest competitors in the county.

## FORESTRY BOARDS

**300+ chestnut seedlings** given away with Baltimore County Forestry Board

Natural Resources Careers Camp keeps rolling! The camp hosted **40 campers** at Hickory Environmental Education Center in 2022.

The Maryland Association of Forestry Conservancy Boards established an equity panel at its Fall 2022 meeting to expand awareness of tree equity issues and options for the community.

## MARYLAND BIG TREE PROGRAM

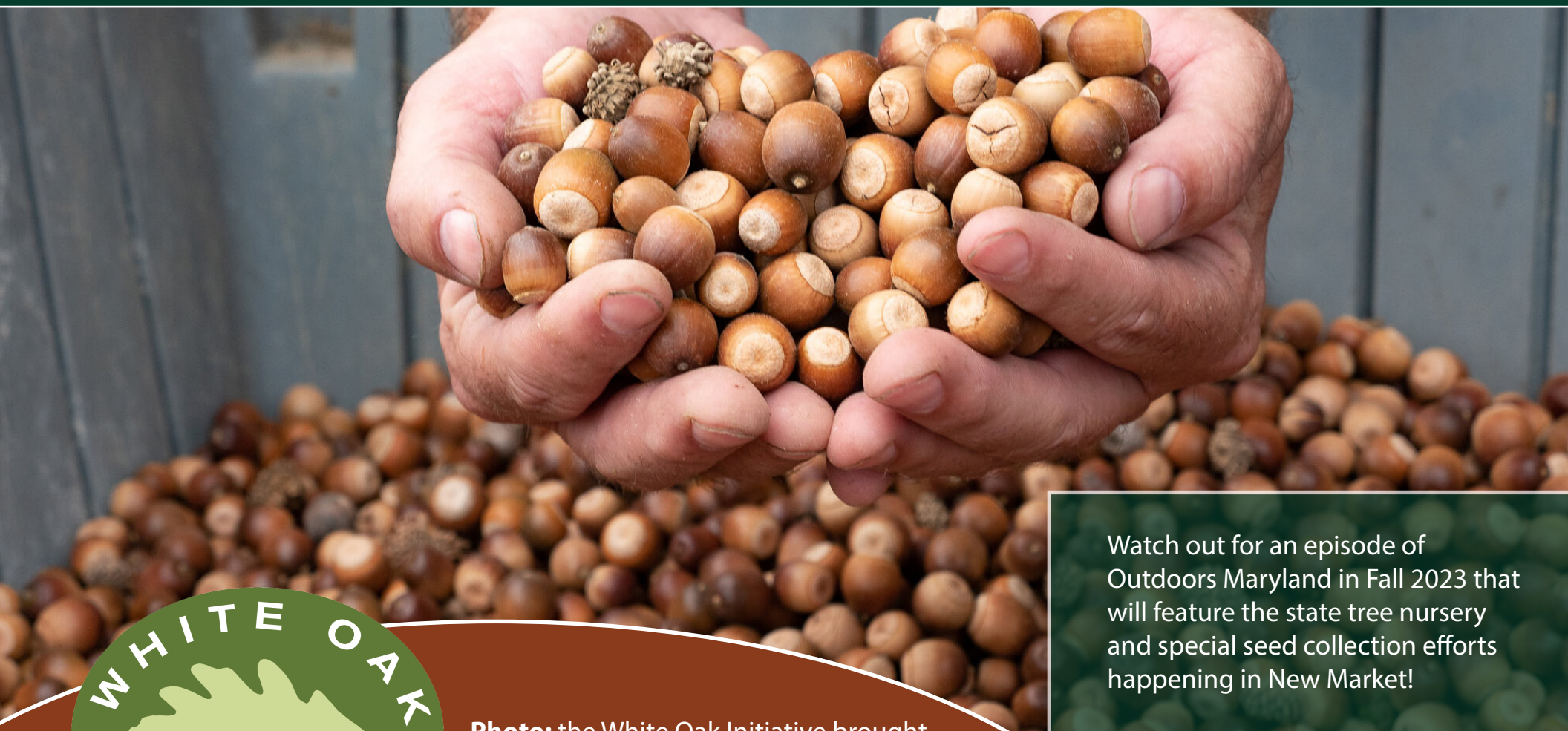
**226 new trees** measured in 2022

**One for the record books: a new state champion was crowned!**

The largest ever eastern white pine in Maryland Big Tree Program history was recorded in Garrett County, thanks to landowners, the Hickey family, and dedicated Big Tree and forestry staff.



# JOHN S. AYTON STATE FOREST TREE NURSERY NEWS & NUMBERS



Watch out for an episode of Outdoors Maryland in Fall 2023 that will feature the state tree nursery and special seed collection efforts happening in New Market!



**Photo:** the White Oak Initiative brought the Maryland Forest Service into a partnership with the University of Kentucky to create a new white oak orchard using acorns collected locally by staff. The initiative will advance climate change research with a keystone species of Maryland's forests.

**3,498 pounds  
of clean seed  
collected for  
almost 60  
different species!**



# WILDLAND FIRE AND FOREST HEALTH NEWS & NUMBERS

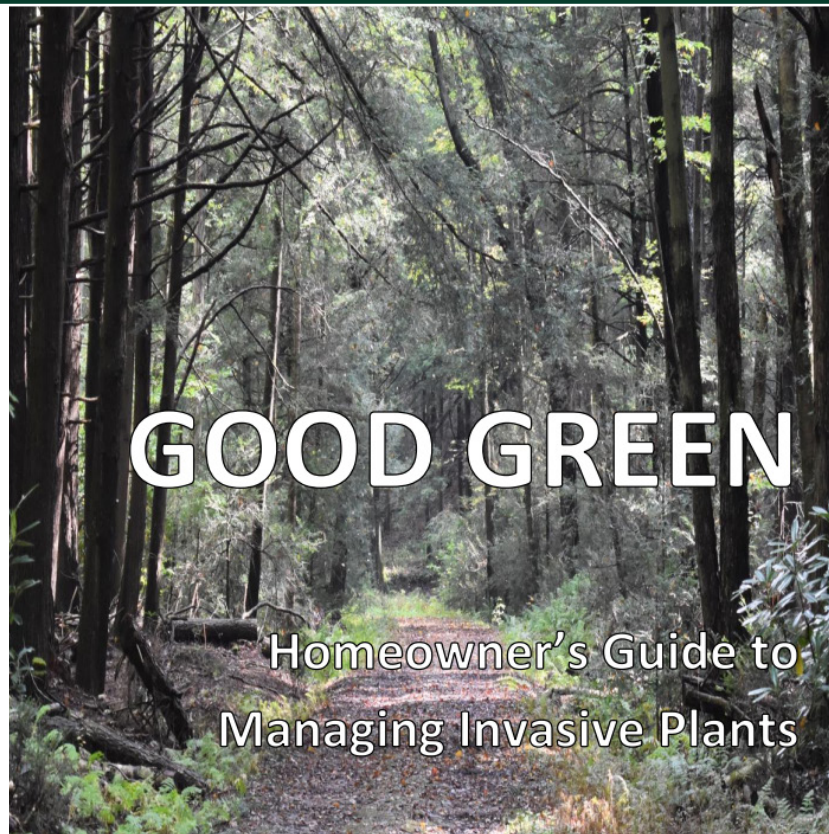


## WILDLAND FIRE

**226 wildfires** took place on more than **4,484 acres**.

**174 prescribed burns** of more than **11,780 acres**

**99 staff** deployed to **20 different states** in response to national wildfire emergencies, mobilized through an interagency cooperative agreement with the USDA Forest Service.



## GOOD GREEN

Homeowner's Guide to  
Managing Invasive Plants



## FOREST HEALTH

**Above: Not all green is good!** The Forest Service created an **invasive species control guide** for homeowners and land managers.

**600+ hazard trees** removed at the new Sideling Hill Creek State Park in Washington County to ensure public safety while training DNR's Incident Management Team

Partnering with student volunteers from University of Maryland Terrapin Trail Club, forestry staff and Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation cleared harmful vines and inspected for eggs of the spotted lanternfly, which is an invasive insect species especially harmful to grapes and other crops.



# 2021-2022 AWARDS

Recently retired Frederick County Project Manager Mike Kay was the National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year in 2021, a significant first for a Maryland forester!



Tim Cole was recognized as Maryland Tree Farm Inspector of the Year and 2022 Northern Regional Tree Farm Inspector of the Year.

Deputy Director Anne Hairston-Strang received the Robert W. Bauer Outstanding Service to Forestry Award from the Allegheny Society of American Foresters.



Garrett County Project Manager Melissa Nash received the 2021 Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Forest Management Forester of the Year.

## 2021 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



**Mike Schofield**  
Chesapeake/  
Pocomoke State  
Forest Manager

## 2021 TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR



**Julie Conway**  
Allegheny County  
Forest Technician

## 2021 FORESTER OF THE YEAR



**Luke Marcek**  
Lower Shore  
Project Manager