



A unifying voice for Virginia's Forestry community.

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**MATT POIROT WINS VIRGINIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

RICHMOND, VA – Matt Poirot is the recipient of the 2019 Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) Distinguished Service Award. Poirot was presented with this award on Thursday, May 2, at the 2019 Virginia Forestry Summit in Norfolk, Virginia. VFA's Distinguished Service Award was created to give public recognition to individuals, groups, associations, and/or companies and corporations that have made a significant, continuing and lasting contribution to the conservation of Virginia's forest resources and/or the enhancement of Virginia's forest-based community.

Matt Poirot graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1977, and began his forestry career as an industry forester in Escanaba, Michigan. In 1978, Poirot returned to Virginia as Area Forester for King William County, beginning his career with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF). After fourteen years of providing superior services to the many landowners, stakeholders, and partners on the Middle Peninsula, he became one of the Department's first Forest Water Quality Engineers, where he developed a passion for and expertise in protecting Virginia's water quality through forestry activities and proper logging techniques.

Poirot then served as the agency's Water Resources Program Manager, and later as Manager of VDOF's Water Quality Program, proving to be instrumental in a variety of initiatives and programs that continue to serve the interests of Virginians across the Commonwealth. His accomplishments include: providing guidance over the past 30 years to the State Forester and Office of the Attorney General during the development and amendment of Virginia's Silvicultural Water Quality Law; developing the Logger BMP Cost-Share Program that has purchased dozens of bridges for use by loggers; developing and updating logger training programs for Virginia's SHARP Logger training and certification program; creating and implementing the logger notification requirement, which allows VDOF to monitor and ensure water quality law compliance on every harvest site in the Commonwealth; and leading the largest, most expansive update of the Virginia Silvicultural BMP Manual, which currently continues to guide BMP implementation and enforcement in Virginia.

Ed Zimmer, Deputy State Forester for the Virginia Department of Forestry, says the following of Poirot's accomplishments: "I think it is reasonable to say that few people have had a larger impact on silvicultural water quality in Virginia over the past 30 years. Matt continues to be a leader in the forestry sector of Virginia to this day, and many of his efforts have been copied by his peers in other southern states."

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About Virginia Forestry Association:

Founded in 1943, the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a not-for-profit organization with the mission of representing Virginia's diverse forestry community and promoting the sustainable use and conservation of forest resources to ensure their long term social benefits for all Virginians. VFA consists of a diverse membership, including forest landowners, foresters, forest products businesses, loggers, forestry consultants, and a variety of individuals and groups who are concerned about the future well-being of Virginia's forest resources and are willing to collaborate for the good of the industry. VFA seeks to be the unifying voice of Virginia's forestry community through advocacy, outreach, and communications that enhance the public's perception of the industry. Learn more at www.vaforestry.org.