

Forestry Department, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
May 19, 2005

SHARP Logger Newsletter

SHARP = “Sustainable **H**arvesting And **R**esource **P**rofessional”

BMP Report

Scott Barrett and Bob Shaffer represented the SHARP Logger Program at the Forestry Water Quality Task Force meeting at the Virginia Department of Forestry headquarters in Charlottesville on May 17. Highlights of the water quality law and BMP inspection reports presented at the meeting include:

- The VDOF conducted more than 5000 water quality/BMP inspections in 2004.
- The Department issued 140 notices for “failure to notify” (form 146) in 2004.
- They issued 523 “water quality protection recommendations” (form 143) in 2004.
- The VDOF issued 78 “final orders” (water quality violations that were not corrected voluntarily) and assessed a total of \$433,700.36 in penalties in 2004.

- The November 2004 BMP Audit of 29 randomly selected recent harvest sites found:
 - ✓ An “effort to apply BMPs” was evident on all 29 sites (100%).
 - ✓ All applicable BMPs were implemented according to VDOF standards as described in the BMP Manual on 10% of the sites.
 - ✓ Active sedimentation existed at 14% of the sites audited, while the potential for sedimentation existed on an additional 14%.
 - ✓ Seeding of landings, stream crossings, roads, and skid trails were deemed inadequate at 21 of the 29 sites. This was noted as a special concern.
 - ✓ Overall BMP implementation quality for the 29 sites was rated at 2.7, on a scale where 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

While considerable documented effort is going into minimizing water quality impacts from timber harvesting in Virginia, the reports presented at this meeting suggest there is still room for improvement.*Bob Shaffer*

Upcoming SHARP Logger Continuing Education (CE) Classes

The CE Credits you have earned for the current 3 year cycle, along with your SHARP Logger renewal date are printed on the mailing label for this letter. On the back of this letter you can find the SHARP Logger CE classes that we currently have scheduled.

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) Classes

VDOT Entrance Permits / Flagger Certification / and Gas Pipeline Safety (3 CE Credits)

This class will cover VDOT requirements for logging road entrance permits as well as acceptable and unacceptable practices within VDOT right-of-ways. This class will also include a review of a video and materials from the Flagger Certification Kit. After reviewing the materials, participants will successfully pass a test to become certified flaggers. This program will also include a presentation on what loggers need to know about safely working around gas pipeline right-of-ways. This class will be offered at the following locations:

Clifton Forge, Tuesday June 21, 6-9 PM at Dabney Lancaster Community College.
Buckingham, Tuesday July 12, 6-9 PM at the MeadWestvaco wood yard.

****Space is limited, so you must pre-register by calling Scott Barrett at 540-231-6494 or E-mail: sharplogger@vt.edu**

Chainsaw safety class (6 CE Credits)

This program will be conducted entirely in the field and will cover directional felling, personal protective equipment, and techniques to improve safety and productivity. The instructor will be Bryan Wagner, a former logger and currently a full-time chainsaw safety trainer for Forestry Mutual Insurance Company. Trees will be felled during the class, so **hard hats are required**. This same class will be offered at the following locations.

Covington, June 23 Time To Be Announced. For more information, or to register, Contact Roger Timbrook with MeadWestvaco at 540-969-5290 or 540-691-6133.

Tazewell County, June 28, 8AM – 2:30 PM. For more information or to register, Contact Scott Barrett at 540-231-6494 or E-mail: sharplogger@vt.edu

Warsaw or Tappahannock area, July 21 8AM – 2:30 PM. For more info or to register, Contact Scott Barrett at 540-231-6494 or E-mail: sharplogger@vt.edu

Louisa or Fluvanna Area, September 30. Time To Be Announced. For more information, or to register, Contact Adam Downing at (540) 948-6881.


Core SHARP Logger Program offered in Martinsville area

As a reminder, we also have a Core SHARP Logger program scheduled for the Martinsville area at Pine Products' Mill if you know of anyone who wants to become a SHARP Logger.

Harvest Planning /BMP's – Thursday June 16th. **Logging Safety** – Friday June 17th.

Sustainable Forestry – Saturday June 18th. For more info contact Scott Barrett.

Sincerely,



Scott Barrett
SHARP Logger Program Coordinator
www.SHARPlogger.vt.edu e-mail sharplogger@vt.edu



Bob Shaffer
Timber Harvesting Extension Specialist

If you need to update your address or take your name off our mailing list, please call Scott Barrett (540)231-6494 or e-mail sharplogger@vt.edu