Welcome Lou Hyman

The Master Logger Program has added a new Program Assistant. Lou Hyman brings us over 30 years of forestry experience in all aspects of forest management and protection. Lou retired from the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) in 2009, where he was the Assistant Director for Protection.

Lou started his career working as a consulting forester in Alabama, before joining the AFC. There he worked in state lands management, landowner assistance, marketing, information and education, and fire protection. He worked with the SFI State Implementation Committee in Alabama.

After retiring from Alabama, Lou moved to Cambridge on the Eastern Shore and works part time doing real estate title research for a company out of Baltimore. He serves as a mate on the Skipjack Nathan of Dorchester.

Lou will be working part time with the Program Coordinator, and will help to develop CE courses and to redesign our Core Courses. He’ll also help with the newsletter and database. Lou is located at the Wye Research and Education Center. His contact information is on the back page.

Good-Bye Nevin Dawson

The Master Logger Program is sorry to see the loss of Nevin Dawson, who has accepted a new position within University of Maryland Extension.

Nevin took on the role of coordinator for the MD/DE ML Program six years ago, and has helped move the program forward despite a struggling economy and a shrinking industry. Accomplishments include a revised newsletter and website, many new continuing education courses, and the conversion of all four core courses to a computer-based correspondence format.

He has greatly enjoyed his time in this position. “It’s been a real privilege getting to know Maryland and Delaware’s hard working loggers, and I’ll certainly miss working with everyone that makes this program a success,” said Nevin.

He’d like to thank the MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee for their dedication and guidance, and the SFI Implementation Committee for its dedication to ongoing financial support of the program.

Nevin is confident that the program is in good hands and will continue to run smoothly. The University has committed to filling the coordinator position as soon as possible.

Equal Access Programs
The MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee and Maryland Forests Association are pleased to announce Eddie Moore and Forest Friendly Logging as the 2013 Logger of the Year. Eddie has been an Active Master Logger since 1995.

Eddie worked primarily on tree length clearcuts for about 40 years, cutting with a chainsaw, skidding with an open cab, and selling much of the product to J.B. Wells Mill. When J.B. Wells closed its doors for good, it was clear to Eddie that he’d have to change his business model or also end up with permanently closed doors. He began to build up his thinning equipment, including a cutter with a bunching head and a small rubber tire skidder. He went from cutting big pine in their prime to thinning in 18-25 year old stands. Many of the tracts he thins now are the same ones that he personally clear cut 25 years ago.

Eddie isn’t the only one in it for the long haul. Most of his six-man crew has been working with him for 30-40 years now. Most are cross-trained, and are able to switch back and forth between cutting, skidding, loading, and driving, depending on the needs of the day.

All crew are CPR/First Aid trained and Eddie is an EMT. The crew keeps each other safe with frequent radio check-ins and weekly tailgate safety sessions. Trimming is only done with polesaws, and everyone wears fluorescent shirts and coats.

Eddie keeps drivers safe with log truck warning signs in all directions, and even at distant tricky intersections that look especially hazardous. Loaded lowboy trailers get escorted by service trucks with flashing lights, especially in the dark morning hours.

Just like the name implies, Forest Friendly Logging is a great steward of the environment. One of the crew will let the forester on the job know if something looks like a vernal pool or other sensitive area and stays out of the area until they get a green light to go ahead.

Soils are probed for stability before the equipment is moved in, and wet sites are passed over until they’re able to dry out. Eddie keeps track of his job sites with a laptop in his truck. He also uses Google Earth to check out a tract’s topography and water resources before moving in, and to make sure that his road and trail layout is efficient without endangering any streams or ditches.

The cutter has a GPS unit in the cab with the tract boundary loaded on its map to avoid any problems with timber trespass. Any soil problems are marked in the GPS unit for monitoring. Eddie will shut down the job to protect the soils in wet weather, getting a second opinion from a forester if needed.

Eddie happily leaves wildlife den trees, deer stand trees, and meets many other landowner requests. Thinning from below is standard, and makes sure that the trees with the most potential are left to keep gaining value for a later harvest. He has no trouble meeting the strict standards of Tree Farm, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and the Forest Stewardship Council.

The MLSC is also happy to announce that Eddie is now serving as the new logger representative member of the Committee.

The Master Logger Program commends Pete Miller for his years of unwavering service to the MD/DE Master Logger Program and to the forest products industry as a whole. After a 12-month battle with cancer, Pete died on September 24, 2013. His most recent role in his career with the NewPage Corporation Luke Mill Wood Department was Administration Supervisor.

He served as the long-time chair of the MD/DE SFI Implementation Committee (SIC), and was responsible for ensuring that the MD/DE Master Logger Program had the funds it needed to provide high quality logger training throughout the two states.

He was also past president of the Maryland Forest Association, and past chairman of the MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee.

A Certified Professional Forester and member of the Society of American Foresters, Pete was elected a Fellow in the year 2007, the highest award by the Society.

His contributions will not be forgotten.
Business Help for Loggers

With the economy being so tight, managing the business side of logging is even more important. There is a source of help for loggers in Maryland and Delaware. Scattered around the state are several Small Business Development Centers (SBDC). These centers are supported by the US Small Business Administration (SBA) and local universities. They can offer your company advice and assistance in the areas of planning, accounting, taxes, legal issues, business evaluations, marketing, and management information systems (computers programs). This assistance is free to small businesses in Maryland and Delaware.

SBDC Offices are located in Salisbury, Frostburg, La Plata, Dover and Georgetown. For contact info, go to www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance. Click on Small Business Development Centers and your state.

In addition, the SBA Natural Resource Assistance Program tries to ensure that small businesses obtain a fair share of federal timber and property sales through Small Business set-asides. In Maryland and Delaware, these are mostly timber sales from wildlife refuges and military bases. SBA also offers counseling assistance to loggers.

For more information, go to www.sba.gov/content/natural-resource-assistance-program.

Legal Issue: Ed’s Tree Service Case

Recently, the Maryland Division of Labor and Industry ruled that all companies that cut trees must ensure that all their employees receive First Aid and CPR training.

In the case of Ed’s Tree Service, a company that does tree trimming, pruning and removals, an employee fell from a tree and none of the crew had the training to provide appropriate first aid. This triggered an investigation.

The company claimed that rules for loggers do not apply to suburban tree service companies.

The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health agency ruled that the requirements do apply to any company that cuts trees, regardless of the end use of the wood or the type of company doing the work.

This requirement always applied to loggers, but this ruling extends the regulation to all tree service companies that cut trees.

Take a moment and check your CPR Card. Has it expired? What about your crews’ cards? First aid and CPR classes are available from the Red Cross and many local volunteer fire departments.

SAFETY is the FIRST priority in all operations. Knowing first aid and CPR is a key part of maintaining crew safety.

Emergency Contractor Registration

As part of our community, we are always willing to help our neighbors in time of need. When a natural disaster strikes—such as a hurricane, tornado or ice storm—downed trees block roads, hampering rescue operations. Loggers have the experience and the right equipment to deal with fallen and leaning trees in a safe and efficient manner. How can we put that to use to help our neighbors?

When there is a disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) works with the county to clear roads and clean up debris. They do this by reimbursing the county for their costs, but they require a formal process. The main item being that a logger must be a registered resource contractor BEFORE the disaster hits. If you want to be on call for this work, the logger must register with the county Emergency Management Agency ahead of time.

Registered resources get paid at the FEMA rate, which includes personnel cost plus fixed equipment costs. These equipment rates are based on the size or capacity of the unit.

Loggers would be used for initial response, clearing roads, and for follow-up, removing logs and chipping debris. There is an issue in that after a disaster of this type, the market gets glutted with wood, so having the cut and haul costs covered makes it a worthwhile operation.

If you are interested in being part of this system, contact your county EMA and ask how you can become a registered resource contractor.
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THE LOGGER is the official publication of the MD/DE Master Logger Program, Master Logger Steering Committee (MLSC), and the Maryland SFISIC.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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