Now Take Core Courses on Your Own Time

Too wet outside to work? Use the day indoors as a chance to get one step closer to active Master Logger status or get caught up on your continuing education credits. Three of the four core courses required to become an active Master Logger are now available as recordings, and may be taken whenever and wherever you have time and access to a computer.

SF I: Sediment & Erosion Control (Green Card)/Logging Aesthetics and SF II: Basic Forestry are both available as streaming online video or on CD-ROM for use on computers without high-speed internet. OSHA Logging Safety is currently only available for those with access to a high-speed internet connection, but will also be available on CD-ROM in April.

Both SF I and OSHA Logging Safety are associated with 4 Master Logger continuing education credits (SF II is only for core course completion). Participants have four weeks to complete the course once the materials are received. You may take the whole course at once, or stop and start as many times as convenient. Even if you don’t have a computer, you may be able to use your local library’s.

Contact Carol Taylor for more information (410-827-8056, ext. 135; caroltt@umd.edu), or register by sending a check for $30 per person per course made out to “University of Maryland” to the address on the back of this newsletter. Include a note stating which courses you’d like to take, how many participants per course, and whether or not you have high-speed internet (usually DSL, cable, or LAN, but not dial-up).

Tailgate Safety Sessions Replace Inspections

As a land grant university, the University of Maryland (UMD) and its programs must focus on education, and cannot be involved in any enforcement activities. Due to the MD/DE Master Logger program’s new home within UMD, job site inspections are no longer a part of the program.

Site inspections have been replaced by tailgate safety sessions: 20-30 minute educational programs to take place on the landing site. Participants will receive one CE credit. Please cooperate when contacted for participation in one of these sessions, as they are essential in maintaining the high quality of the program.

Site inspections by state forest services, private companies, and third party auditors will continue normally.
Money does still grow on trees.

Timber Values Increase Despite Market

According to the Wall Street Journal (1/26/09), timber assets are still doing fairly well despite the struggling economy. The national increase in timber value is expected to be 5% for 2008—much less than the 15% of 2007, but still much healthier than many other industries. The average annual timberland appreciation for the past decade is 4.1% versus negative 3.8% for the Standard & Poor's-500 stock index.

One big reason for timber's profitability is that it’s an excellent long-term investment, similar to high-grade bonds. Because timber harvest can be put off a few years if market conditions are bad—unlike corn or pork—owners have flexibility. The down side is that timber is illiquid, meaning that it takes a lot of time and planning to turn those trees into dollars.

The market may be shrinking, but the trees don’t stop growing!

Slasher Saw Safety

Slasher saws are now widely used by logging operations to mechanically saw logs into varying product lengths. These units are usually hydraulically powered from the knuckleboom loader and may use either a circular disc saw or chainsaw for the cutting action. The use of slasher units reduces the risks of using chainsaws, being struck by rolling logs or moving equipment, walking in adverse ground conditions, and working in product debris.

Although slashers are generally safer than chainsaws, they can still easily inflict serious or fatal injury. These guidelines are applicable to both the circular disc and chainsaw units.

- Follow the manufacturer’s recommended guidelines for operation, maintenance, and safety.
- Routinely inspect the unit for proper operation. Repair or replace any damaged part before use.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment during operation and when performing maintenance.
- De-energize (Zero Energy State) slasher saws and use extreme caution when coupling and uncoupling hydraulic lines connected to the hydraulic knuckleboom loader. Wear hand and eye protection.
- Perform maintenance and repair only when the unit and power sources are completely disengaged.
- Use a tool or stick to turn the chain or rotate the cutting disc when performing maintenance and repair. Protect hands and fingers from injury by wearing gloves.
- All ground workers and mobile equipment should maintain a safe distance from the slasher. Locate and maintain the slasher in as level position as possible.
- Locate sawed logs away from the slasher to avoid the unit being struck in the event a log unexpectedly rolls off the pile.
- Routinely clean around the unit only when the power source and the slasher are disengaged.

National Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation
www.loggingsafety.com

“All ground workers and mobile equipment should maintain a safe distance from the slasher.”
Take Action for Change

Something in the news got your goat? Unhappy about a new law or ordinance? Do something about it!

Being an activist simply means taking positive, direct action to achieve an end result, regardless of which side of the issue you’re on.

Here are a few tips for getting started:

1) Act Positive: Negative messages like “Eat an Owl!” can hurt your image. Keep it positive and professional.
2) Act Local: Work with your community and your local elected officials for the biggest impact.
3) Know Your Facts: Be sure you are able to back up everything you say.
4) Work on Your Image: Think about the way your equipment and job sites look to the public. Don’t give the public anything to complain about.
5) Pick an Action and Do It!

Nothing will change until you commit yourself and take action.

Some ideas: contact your legislators, contact a local news TV or radio station, write a letter to the editor, put an ad in the paper, speak to school children, speak to community groups, host a public mill or job site tour, post signs, or join an organization.

Whatever you choose, don’t delay and do it now!

Money Management in Tough Times

University of Maryland is teaming up with other land-grant universities to help you manage money through tough times. As part of eXtension (www.extension.org), University of Maryland is able to harness the knowledge of financial experts across the country. The website, Financial Security: Managing Money in Tough Times, serves as a portal to articles on all facets of personal finance. You can also ask questions of verified experts through an easy-to-use form on the website.

University of Maryland and its affiliates also offer timely financial tools such as PowerPay debt reduction calculation software, homebuyer education, bankruptcy prevention education, agribusiness decision-making tools and many other financial resources, all at no cost to you.

Also look for Master Logger business management programs coming near you soon.

Writers/Reviewers for Portable Sawmills Magazine Wanted

Have something new and interesting to share with the world? Have a way with words?

The editors of Independent Sawmills & Woodlot Management magazine are looking for writers and editors, especially in the portable sawmill area.

S&W is a full-color periodical distributed eight times a year.

The publication targets both mill operators and forest managers, and features equipment reviews as well as profiles on individual tree species.

Contact Walter now and take advantage of this chance to get your words in print.

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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.

**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td><strong>The Woods in Your Backyard</strong>, Easton, MD, 9am-12pm, $5, Shannon Dill: 410-822-1244 or <a href="mailto:sdill@umd.edu">sdill@umd.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td><strong>OSHA 10 Certification</strong>, Sterling, VA, 8am-6pm, $185, Christine Cavins: 703-637-4346 or <a href="mailto:ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com">ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com</a>. Sponsored by McLean Insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td><strong>Diameter Limit Cutting and Exploitation</strong>, Online, 12 - 1 pm OR 7 - 8 pm, FREE, Nevin Dawson: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:ndawson@umd.edu">ndawson@umd.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td><strong>Picture of Safety: examining sites &amp; situations</strong>, Sterling, VA, 9 - 11 am, FREE, Christine Cavins: 703-637-4346 or <a href="mailto:ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com">ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com</a>. Sponsored by McLean Insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td><strong>Logging Safety</strong>, Cedarville State Forest, MD, 9-12 am, $5, Christine Cavins: 703-637-4346 or <a href="mailto:ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com">ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com</a>. Sponsored by McLean Insurance and Bituminous Insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td><strong>Climate Change Aspects on Your Woods and Wildlife</strong>, Online, 12 - 1 pm OR 7 - 8 pm, FREE, Nevin Dawson: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:ndawson@umd.edu">ndawson@umd.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td><strong>Landscape Safety</strong>, Sterling, VA, 9am-11am, FREE, Christine Cavins: 703-637-4346 or <a href="mailto:ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com">ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com</a>. Sponsored by McLean Insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td><strong>Why Choose a PEO?</strong>, Sterling, VA, 11am, FREE, Christine Cavins: 703-637-4346 or <a href="mailto:ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com">ccavins@mcleaninsurance.com</a>. Sponsored by McLean Insurance.</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td><strong>ML Core: Threatened &amp; Endangered Species/Logger Activism</strong>, Queenstown and Online, 9 am - 1 pm, $30, Carol Taylor: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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Attendees at all listed events are eligible for ML CE credit hours equal to the length of the program.