ML Steering Committee Wants You!

The MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee (MLSC) has created two new positions on the committee to be filled by enthusiastic and engaged Active Master Loggers who will represent their colleagues in the forest harvest field. Primary responsibilities of committee members include participation in eight hour-long toll-free conference calls and four meetings per year. Joining these meetings and calls will give you the power to drive the development of upcoming programs and also shape the future of the MD/DE Master Logger Program. MLSC members receive 4 credits continuing education credits every year, enough to satisfy the CE credit requirement for active Master Logger status.

The MLSC wants to make sure that the MD/DE Master Logger Program not only meets the goals and training requirements of various agencies and organizations, but also serves the needs of our loggers in the woods. This is your chance to get involved and give loggers a strong voice in the ML program. Contact Nevin at the phone number or email address on the reverse of this newsletter to begin the simple application process.

MFA Conference: Maryland’s Working Woodlands

Maryland Forests Association’s 34th Annual Conference will be held November 5 and 6, 2010 at the Gaylord National Conference Center in spectacular National Harbor just outside Washington, DC. MFA’s Annual Conference is the place for forest landowners, natural resource professionals, and forestry advocates to gather for networking, learning, and fellowship. This year’s event includes outstanding educational sessions, an exciting field trip to nearby Myrtle Gove Wildlife Management Area, and a unique and inspiring Keynote presentation on the Living Memorials of 9/11.

Participants will learn why woodland management is important, how to keep woodlands healthy and productive, and what programs are available to help landowners.

The registration deadline is October 22nd. For more information about the conference, contact MFA Executive Director Karin Miller at director@mdforests.org or 301-895-5369. More details are available at www.mdforests.org. A total of 12 MD/DE Master Logger CE credits are available to conference participants.
Heavy Vehicle Use Tax Exemption

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) and allied associations obtained a reversal of an IRS field office’s decision to deny haulers of unprocessed forest products from the woods to the first point of processing the 25% reduction in the federal Heavy Vehicle Use Tax which FRA and allies had obtained in 1984. The IRS has now confirmed this reversal with a Legal Memorandum.

FRA and the American Loggers Council point out that regional forestry and logging issues often quickly become national issues, and that by bringing such issues to the attention of state and national trade associations, they can often be circumvented before they get out of control. Both organizations urge members to continue to report unusual tax or other government agency actions to appropriate state, regional, and national associations.

Working Safely Around Pipelines

It is vital that you call your state’s one-call notification center before any digging, excavation or general crossing of utility easements with heavy equipment 48 to 72 hours before starting any activity (MD 1-800-257-7777; VA 1-800-552-7001).

When notified through the one-call service, NiSource Gas Transmission & Storage (NGT&S) will mark the location of its pipeline and rights of way and will explain its construction guidelines. This free service allows you to begin your project with the assurance that your safety will not be compromised, and that pipelines will not be damaged.

If you dig and expose, hit or touch a pipeline, no matter how insignificant it may appear, you must contact NGT&S by calling 1-800-835-7191. If gas is leaking, you are also required by federal law to contact 911 or your local fire department.

Pipelines are identified by markers placed at intervals along pipeline rights of way. It is a federal crime, punishable by a $5000 fine, imprisonment of up to a year or both for each offense, for a person to deliberately deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker.

While the markers are very helpful to indicate the presence of pipelines and pipeline related facilities in the area, they cannot be relied upon to show the exact location, the depth, or how many pipelines are in the right of way. Don’t rely solely on the presence or absence of a pipeline marker.

NGT&S must review and approve all plans for proposed work near its facilities. Please contact NGT&S at 1-866-701-9582 or pipelinelandowners@nisource.com to obtain information with guidance on plan submittal for activities or construction within or in close proximity to our rights of way.

Courtesy of Cedric Kline, Columbia Gas Transmission
Furman Forest Services up for Regional Award

Furman Forest Services, LLC was named as the 2009 Maryland Forests Association Logger of the Year, and is now one of two finalists in the running for Forest Resources Association Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger of the year.

The family-run business has thirty years of experience in the wood products industry, and has operated in its current form since 2001. The Furmans are well known for their high standards in customer relations, their drive for innovation, and their dedication to getting the job done right. Mark, Randy, and Matt leave every customer satisfied, and use practices that leave the job site at its highest potential to grow the next stand of timber.

The Furmans keep a close watch on current market conditions as well as emerging trends. Products are sorted on the landing for as many as nine different markets from tops and branches to veneer. Their experience in harvesting and hauling tops and branches puts them ahead of the curve when the biomass market expands. Mark and Randy have both been active Master Loggers since 2004.

“Mark, Randy, and Matt leave the job site at its highest potential to grow the next stand of timber.”

Nominate the Next MFA Logger of the Year

The MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee and the Maryland Forests Association (MFA) are looking for nominations for the 2010 Logger of the Year award.

The award program is open to all independent logging contractors. Preference will be given to those actively participating in the MD/DE Master Logger Program.

The award winner will receive an engraved plaque, complimentary registration and guest package at the MFA Annual Meeting, and other awards donated by MFA sponsors. The finalist will automatically be nominated to the appropriate regional Forest Resources Association Outstanding Logger Award Program, subject to eligibility requirements.

Who can submit a nomination? Anyone! Letters of nomination must be received by September 3, 2010. Submit a letter of nomination to the address below, or use the online form at this link: www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229859YME5W

Karin Miller, Maryland Forests Assoc., PO Box 599, Grantsville, MD 21536.

New CE Credit At-Home Opportunities

Need some more continuing education (CE) credits before the end of the year? Too busy to make it in person to a training? Already retaken the core courses for CE credits? You’ve got options!

Two new online water quality courses are available from the Virginia SHARP Logger program at the following addresses for one CE credit each: http://connect.ag.vt.edu/waterqualitylaws/; http://connect.ag.vt.edu/waterqualitybpm/. In the survey that appears after each course, be sure to write that you are a MD/DE Master Logger in the comments box so that you receive credit.

Forestryflix.com offers educational DVDs that you can order, view, and return all for free. Contact Nevin for more information on receiving credit for viewing these videos.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>General Forestry Course open enrollment deadline</td>
<td>Paper and online versions available, $300, Nancy Stewart: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:nstewart1@umd.edu">nstewart1@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.mdforest.umd.edu">www.mdforest.umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>Sep 16-17</td>
<td>Good Green, Bad Green: Invasive Plant Control for Habitat Restoration.</td>
<td>Front Royal, VA, $35-65, 540-564-3080 or <a href="mailto:goodgreenbadgreen@vt.edu">goodgreenbadgreen@vt.edu</a>; <a href="http://www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/">http://www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/</a>.</td>
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<td>Sep 18</td>
<td>Tree Farm Annual Meeting, Eastern Shore.</td>
<td>A.J. King Tree Farm. Details TBA. John Jordan: (410) 651-2004 or <a href="mailto:jjordan@dnr.state.md.us">jjordan@dnr.state.md.us</a>.</td>
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<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>ML Core: Sediment &amp; Erosion Control; Spill Prevention &amp; Control; Logging Aesthetics.</td>
<td>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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<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Goats and Sheep: A Weapon Against Weeds.</td>
<td>Online, 12:00 pm - 1 pm, FREE, Carol Taylor: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Forest Threats.</td>
<td>Online, 12:00 pm - 1 pm, FREE, Pam Thomas: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:pthomas@umd.edu">pthomas@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>ML Core: Basic Forestry &amp; Silviculture; Forest Certification.</td>
<td>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.