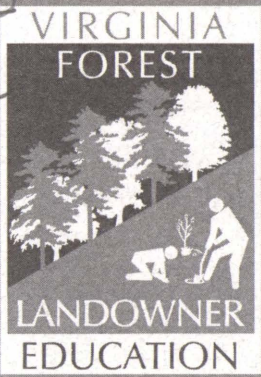


# VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

Events, news, and information promoting the stewardship of Virginia's natural resources.

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**WELCOME** to the *Virginia Forest Landowner Update!* You and your family or organization are invited to learn about your role in Virginia forest stewardship by attending the events listed within these pages. These programs will provide practical information to forest landowners, natural resource professionals, youth and other interested parties on the many components of sustainable forestry.

**Update sponsors include:**

- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources
  - Department of Forestry
  - Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Forestry Association
- Virginia SFI<sup>SM</sup> State Implementation Committee

**TO SUBMIT EVENTS AND ADDRESS CORRECTIONS...**

If your organization is sponsoring a natural resource education program or you would like to make a change of address, please contact: Dylan Jenkins  
Virginia Cooperative Extension  
216 Cheatham Hall (0324)  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
phone: 540/231-6391  
fax: 540/231-3330  
e-mail: dylan@vt.edu

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## Five Years of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>SM</sup> in Virginia

**What is SFI?**

This year the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program observes its fifth year of operation in Virginia. SFI is a program of the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA), the nation's lead forest trade organization, whose members manufacture over 80 percent of the paper, wood and forest products produced in the United States. The mission of SFI is twofold: first, to educate the public about the importance of America's forest products industry; and second, to promote a high standard of environmental stewardship among America's forest products industry and on the private lands from which they purchase wood. The SFI Standard embodies a set of forest management practices that are economically and environmentally responsible and that maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity. Specific SFI program objectives include the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat, historical resources, and biodiversity (see table to right). AF&PA member companies must comply with all SFI objectives to retain their membership in the AF&PA. Today, the SFI program encompasses more than 60 million forested acres nationwide.

**SFI Accomplishments in Virginia**  
In Virginia, the SFI Standard is being achieved through a comprehensive outreach and education program. Un-

der the leadership of the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) and AF&PA member companies (see table on page 5), and in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Tech Department of Forestry, SFI has initiated the state's leading logger and forest landowner education programs. Since 1996, these education programs have reached thousands of loggers and

forest landowners, promoting safety, environmental stewardship, and active forest management. SFI activities in Virginia are coordinated by a State Implementation Committee consisting of the organizations above and receiving

regular input from other government and private natural resource agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, The Izaak Walton League, The Nature Conservancy, and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Virginia's logger education program, the Virginia Forestry and Harvesting Education (VF&HE) Program, was initiated in 1996 and has now reached over 3,300 logging contractors, employees, and other natural resource professionals (see related story on page 5 for more details). Nearly 1,900 loggers have completed the VF&HE core educational requirements to earn the SHARP (Sustainable Harvesting and Resource Professional) Logger designation. Recently, all AF&PA members companies operating in Virginia have individually chosen to purchase wood solely from loggers who have completed the SHARP Logger training.

**"Sustainable forestry meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs..."**

**SFI<sup>SM</sup> OBJECTIVES**

1. Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by employing an array of scientifically, environmentally, and economically sound practices in the growth, harvest and use of forests.
2. Ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation, and other measures.
3. Protect water quality in streams, lakes, and other water bodies by implementing riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, and other applicable factors.
4. Enhance the quality of wildlife habitat by developing and implementing measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals.
5. Manage the visual impact of clearcutting and all other forest operations.
6. Manage Program Participant lands of ecologic, geologic, or historic significance in a manner that recognizes their special qualities.
7. Contribute to biodiversity by enhancing landscape diversity and providing a variety of habitats and plant communities.
8. Help ensure the most efficient use of forest resources.
9. Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by cooperating with non-industrial landowners, wood producers, consulting foresters and Program Participants' employees who have responsibility in wood procurement and land-owner assistance programs.
10. Publicly report Program Participants' progress in fulfilling their commitment to sustainable forestry.
11. Provide opportunities for the public and the forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry.

SFI continues on page 5



## EVENTS CALENDAR

event contact	date/location	event/description (preregistration requested unless noted otherwise; TBA = to be announced)	time	fee
KH	May 1 Harrisonburg, VA	<b>Forest and Farmland Fragmentation Workshop: Impacts in the Valley.</b> Virginia's farms and forests are quickly becoming divided into smaller parcels and converted to other land uses. This workshop will explore the causes and effects of land fragmentation and land use conservation strategies available to landowners.	7:45am-4:00pm	\$20.00
BM	May 5 Belle I. State Park Lancaster Co., VA	<b>Virginia Outdoors Day.</b> Designed to introduce individuals and families to a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities including: bird watching, boating, dutch oven cooking, hiking and camping, horseback riding, hunting dog handling, muzzleloading, photography, fly fishing, and woodworking for wildlife.	10:00am-4:00pm	no fee
HH	May 9-10 Blacksburg, VA	<b>Estate Planning for Forest Landowners.</b> Course provides working knowledge of the federal estate and gift tax and an overview of state death tax considerations applicable to timberland in the estate. Implications of recent tax law changes for accumulating and protecting forestry assets are discussed. Strategies for intergenerational transfer of timberland are emphasized. <a href="http://www.conted.vt.edu/estate.htm">www.conted.vt.edu/estate.htm</a> .	8:00am-5:00pm each day	\$275.00
TWNF	May 11-13 Wintergreen Resort	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Wildflower Symposium.</b> Learn from field botanists and naturalists during a weekend of guided hikes, workshops, and lectures on the region's native flora and fauna. Create your own schedule from over 50 field and lecture sessions on native gardening, edible and medicinal plants, forest ecology, and more.	all day each day	\$95.00
JW	May 12 Clinch Mtn. WMA Saltville, VA	<b>Clinch Mountain Wildlife and Forestry Field Day.</b> Landowners, homeowners, and anyone interested in wildlife will learn techniques they can apply on their own property. Focus on wildlife and forestry practices that are used to maintain vigorous wildlife populations. Activities mostly outdoors, rain or shine.	9:00am-4:00pm	\$2.00 (add \$5.00 for lunch)
RV	May 14-15 Blacksburg, VA	<b>Introduction to Cable Logging and Improved Efficiency.</b> Learn the many aspects of running a successful cable logging operation and techniques for improving operational efficiency. Includes overview of cable logging systems and machinery, yarding operation planning and layout, costing, safety, and workforce management. Includes hands-on demonstrations and field trips. <a href="http://www.conted.vt.edu/cblog.htm">www.conted.vt.edu/cblog.htm</a>	8:30am-5:00pm each day	\$275.00
JR	May 17 Lexington, VA	<b>Rockbridge Area Forestry and Wildlife Association Dinner Meeting.</b> Join area forest landowners and resource professionals for food and fellowship. Mr. David Carr will speak on controlling invasive exotic plant species.	6:00pm-9:00pm	\$12.00
TM	May 18-20 Floyd County, VA	<b>Redefining Sustainable Forestry.</b> What restorative logging means to Virginia's forests. Weekend workshop includes discussions and field demonstrations on community forestry, watershed protection and best management practices, low-impact harvesting techniques, and building dialogue between Virginia forest stakeholders. Virginia SHARP Logger continuing education credits available.	May 18: 5:00pm-9:00pm May 19: 8:00am-11:00pm	\$11.50 (lodging & meals extra)
MA	June 1 Blacksburg, VA	<b>Forest Road Stream Crossings.</b> Lectures cover basic concepts of bridge design considerations, stream crossing permits, suitable crossing locations, and construction costs for a variety of stream crossings. Afternoon devoted to field examination and discussion of timber bridges, low water crossings, fords, and skidder bridges. Bring hardhat, waterproof boots, and calculator. <a href="http://www.conted.vt.edu/strmxing.htm">www.conted.vt.edu/strmxing.htm</a> .	8:30am-4:30pm	\$125.00
DG	June 2 Cumberland, VA	<b>Southside Spring Fling II: Hardwood Ecology and Management.</b> Despite reports to the contrary, hardwood management is alive and well in Southside Virginia. Review even-aged and uneven-aged hardwood regeneration methods. Learn the proper timing and implementation of intermediate treatments. Discover how soils and site influence forest stand composition. Discuss pine to hardwood conversion; can we regenerate oak by planting pine? Dress for the field; course fee includes lunch.	TBA	TBA
FL	June 4-6 Blacksburg, VA	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Wood Technology Short Course for Managers and Engineers.</b> Designed for managers and engineers in the furniture, cabinet, and related wood working industries who are called upon daily to make technical decisions regarding wood processing. Includes properties and behavior of wood, practical aspects of wood processing, troubleshooting, and quality control. <a href="http://www.conted.vt.edu/wtsc.htm">www.conted.vt.edu/wtsc.htm</a> .	8:30am-5:00pm each day	\$280.00



## USING THE CALENDAR

For more information or to register for a specific event, identify the event contact (whose initials are to the left of the event), by referring to the "Event Contacts" information box (for example VT = Virginia Tech).

event contact	date/location	event/description (preregistration required unless noted otherwise; TBA = to be announced)	time	fee
MM	June 6-8 Richmond, VA	<b>Virginia's Sustainable Future Conference II.</b> Solutions for the environment, business, and communities. Lectures will focus on sustainable communities, the built environment, transportation innovations, business and industrial stewardship, energy solutions, and natural resources. <a href="http://www.deq.state.va.us/vsf2">www.deq.state.va.us/vsf2</a> .	all day each day	\$125.00
HW	June 8-10 Holiday Lake 4-H Center	<b>Becoming an Outdoors Woman.</b> Excellent opportunity for woman 18 or older to learn outdoor numerous skills including backpacking, canoeing, fly fishing, archery, firearms (muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, and shotgun), deer hunting, outdoor cooking, forest ecology, game care and cleaning, kayaking, orienteering, first aid, wilderness survival, wetland ecology, woodworking for wildlife and more.	all day each day	\$150.00
SNP	June 16 Big Meadows Shenandoah N.P.	<b>Changing Landscapes.</b> Natural communities of plants and wildlife are ever-changing. Visit sites of recent research with geologists and learn about changes in plant and animal communities in Shenandoah National Park. What do pollen spores in core samples drilled from Big Meadows tell us about the meadow over time? What does long-term air and water quality monitoring indicate about forest health?	TBA	\$25.00
DC	June 18-23 Holiday Lake 4-H Center	<b>55<sup>th</sup> Holiday Lake Forestry Camp for Youth.</b> This camp will introduce young Virginians to the challenges, special skills, and knowledge needed to manage Virginia's many forest resources. Courses taught by natural resource professionals include: forest management practices, tree measurements, environmental protection, wildlife habitat management, stream quality analysis, and tree ID. <a href="http://www.dof.state.va.us/hlfc.htm">www.dof.state.va.us/hlfc.htm</a> .	all day each day	\$35.00
FL	July 12 Roanoke, VA	<b>Advanced Techniques for Drying Hardwood Lumber.</b> Program will concentrate on the latest techniques and practical solutions to problems encountered in drying today's hardwood lumber. Emphasis on advanced techniques to assist kiln operator or manager to improve drying quality and reduce drying times. <a href="http://www.conted.vt.edu/drywood.htm">www.conted.vt.edu/drywood.htm</a> .	8:30am-4:30pm	\$180.00
SNP	July 21 Big Meadows Shenandoah N.P.	<b>Revealing the Past at Big Meadows.</b> Shenandoah National Park is rich not only in natural beauty, but also in human history. Learn to read the landscape of Big Meadows for clues to its past. Visit the site of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp that once dominated Big Meadows. Get dirty digging at an archaeological site.	TBA	\$25.00
DP	September 5-6 Blacksburg, VA	<b>Kentland Farm Family Showcase.</b> Demonstrations and hands-on activities by Virginia Tech's Colleges of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Life Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, and Human Resources and Education at the Kentland Farm near Blacksburg. Learn what's new in agriculture, forestry and wildlife, animal care, and consumer sciences. More details in the next <i>Update</i> .	Sept. 5 9:00am-8:00pm Sept. 6 9:00am-4:00pm	TBA

## EVENT CONTACTS

for more information or to register for a specific event, please contact:

event contact	name/affiliation	phone	fax	e-mail
BM	Bob Mathers, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries	804/436-0717		bmathers@dgif.state.va.us
DC	David Coffman, Virginia Department of Forestry	804/977-6555		coffmand@dof.state.va.us
DG	Dan Goerlich, Halifax County Cooperative Extension	804/476-2147	804/476-7777	dalego@vt.edu
DP	Dwight Paulette, Virginia Tech - Kentland Farm	540/731-1289		kentland@vt.edu
FL	Fred Lamb, Virginia Tech Dept. of Wood Science & Forest Products	540/231-7256	540/231-8868	fml195@vt.edu
HH	Harry Haney, Virginia Tech Department of Forestry	540/231-5212	540/231-3698	hhaney@vt.edu
HW	Hillary Welch, Virginia Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries	804/367-6351		hwelch@dgif.state.va.us
JR	Jonathan Repair, Rockbridge County Cooperative Extension	540/463-4734	540/463-5981	jrepair@vt.edu
JW	Jim Willis, Russell County Cooperative Extension	540/889-8056	540/889-8075	jrwillis@vt.edu
KH	Kathy Holm, Valley Conservation Council	540/886-3541	540/886-1380	khvcc@intelos.net
SNP	Shenandoah National Park	540/999-3489		
MA	Mike Aust, Virginia Tech Department of Forestry	540/231-4523	540/231-3330	waust@vt.edu
MM	Marty Malloy, Richmond Convention Connections	804/360-1500	804/369-1555	malloyism@aol.com
RV	Rien Visser, Virginia Tech Department of Forestry	540/231-6924	540/231-3330	rvisser@vt.edu
TM	Trina Miller, Virginia Forest Watch	540/744-3425		
TWNF	The Wintergreen Nature Foundation	804/325-8169		wtnfn@aol.com



## Special Forest Product Review: Herbs to Consider

by Maureen Rogers

*The Herb Growing and Marketing Network*

When I'm asked to write about up-and-coming new herbs, I always cringe. If I was totally accurate about predicting these things, I'd have directed growers to get into St. John's Wort long before 20/20 did their profile a few years ago. That way everyone would have been growing it in time to take advantage of that short window when it was high in demand and low in supply. Once prime time television gets hold of an herb, a grower might as well switch to another crop, because every farmer and would-be farmer will put in at least an acre. Most successful growers feel that a diversified group of crops is extremely important. It's better to have perhaps 15 or 20 different products that you can offer buyers than to invest everything in two or three that may not do well or be the "hot" herbs for the year.

### *How do you determine what herbs will be profitable in the future?*

Following trend analysis is a full-time job for consultants who do nothing but predict what businesses should be focusing on in coming years. Most farmers cannot afford this type of consulting, but all of you can analyze the media to predict what products are appropriate for your business. I'll give you some sources for trend tracking at the end of this article, but first I'll offer some of my own predictions for the next few years.

Since we are an aging population, herbs that are considered helpful for conditions of older people are the ones to look at for commercial production. These include herbs for menopause and virility, as well as herbs used to control such illnesses as adult onset diabetes, senility, and chronic pain. At the same time, with an increase of children on Ritalin, there's been strong interest in herbs that can be used as a substitute.

### *What specific herbs should you look at?*

#### **Herbs for Menopause**

Chasteberry (*Vitex agnus-castus*), motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*), dong quai (*Angelica sinensis*), wild yam (*Dioscorea villosa*), black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*), cramp bark (*Viburnum opulus*), helonias root (*Chamaelirium luteum*), lady's slipper (*Cypripedium* spp). Helonias and lady's slipper are in the endangered category, so if you have the patience to work at commercial cultivation and are successful at it, you'll have a welcoming (and potentially lucrative) market. For cultivation techniques on growing these at-risk herbs, Richo Cech (Horizon Herbs, PO Box 69, Williams, OR 97544-0069; 541-846-6704, herbseed@chatlink.com) has a new book available covering cultivation of several of these plants. He's also an excellent source for seeds, including helonias. Sources for laboratory grown lady's slipper seedlings are Spangle Creek Labs (21950 County Road 445 Bovey, MN 55709; <http://www.uslink.net/~scl>; send a business-size SASE for list and ordering information), and Vermont

Ladyslipper Company (56 Leduc Road, New Haven, VT, 05472-1000; [vtlsc@together.net](mailto:vtlsc@together.net)).

#### **Herbs for Virility**

Most of the herbs used for treatment are plants that need more tropical growing conditions. Ginkgo trees, however, can easily be grown in zones five to seven, and crop potential here is good. Ginkgo also targets circulatory problems associated with aging.

#### **Ritalin Substitutes**

There really is no "herbal Ritalin", but certain herbs are being used successfully in combinations to relieve the symptoms of ADHD and ADD: lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), Oats, in the milky state (*Avena sativa*), and Bacopa monniera.

#### **Chinese Herbs**

Interest in these and the Ayurvedic herbs is growing. Contamination is an issue with herbs that come from overseas; many manufacturers, especially smaller ones, prefer to have a domestic source. A group in New York State has been working with growers on cultivating these plants domestically. Direct questions to Jean Giblette at High Falls Garden, PO Box 125, Philmont, NY 12565; 518-672-7365; [hfg@capital.net](mailto:hfg@capital.net). Sources for Chinese herb seeds are Horizon Herbs (address above; also has Ayurvedic herb seeds) and Elixir Farm (General Delivery, Brixey, MO 65618; 417-261-2393; <http://www.elixirfarm.com>).

#### **Watch Trends**

I mentioned I'd give some direction on monitoring what trends are going to affect herbs. It's not a simple thing. You can go online and spend time monitoring some of the various herb lists that allow people to post questions (there is a list of these in the potpourri section of [www.herbnet.com](http://www.herbnet.com)). You can browse the various health magazines either at the library or in bookstores (that's why there are chairs in Borders and Barnes & Noble). See what articles on herbs are featured and look through them for specifics.

A few years ago Andrew Weil had an article in one of the leading magazines about using bloodroot paste to remove warts, and we were inundated with calls looking for bloodroot. Join trade associations that provide members with this type of information.

You can't get enough material on what people are looking for. One of the most successful growers I know spent a lot of money over a three-year period having a consultant monitor plant research to determine where to direct his efforts, and it paid off. There really is a profit to be made with medicinal plants if you work at it and stay ahead of the curve.

Maureen Rogers is the editor and publisher of *The Herbal Connection* and *The Herbal Green Pages* for the Herb Growing and Marketing Network. P.O. Box 245, Silver Spring, PA 17575-0245

Visit the Herb Growing and Marketing Network Web Site at:

<http://www.herbworld.com>

This site contains information on marketing herbs and links to other medicinal herb sites.

The Herb Growing and Marketing Network is the largest trade association for the herb industry with approximately 2000 members in business since 1990. A membership-based information service, the Network maintains a library of over 3,000 books, subscribes to more than 200 periodicals, monitors 10 internet mailing lists, and searches the internet looking for resources and research on the herb industry. The Network also publishes *The Bu\$iness of Herbs*, a quarterly trade journal. **U**

### **For more information on identifying and growing medicinal herbs, review the following resources:**

#### **Selected Publications**

**Newcomb's Wildflower Guide**  
by Lawrence Newcomb  
Little Brown & Co.: New York. 1977. 490pp.

**The Audubon Society Guide to North American Wildflowers: Eastern Region**  
by William Niering and Nancy Olmstead  
Knopf: New York. 1979. 887pp.

**New Age Herbalist**  
by Richard Mabey  
Macmillan: New York. 1988. 288pp.

**Peterson Field Guide: Eastern Central Medicinal Plants**  
by Steven Foster and James A. Duke  
Houghton Mifflin: New York. 1990. 366pp.

**Peterson Field Guide: Edible Wild Plants.**  
by L.A. Peterson  
Houghton Mifflin: New York. 1977. 330pp.

#### **Selected Websites**

**The Medicinal Plants Cooperative**  
[http://www.research.umbc.edu/~frizzell/MPC\\_page](http://www.research.umbc.edu/~frizzell/MPC_page)

**Medicinal Herb Online Home Page**  
<http://www.egregore.com/>

**Medicinal Herbs Homepage**  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/25411/>

**Algy's Herb Page**  
<http://www.algy.com/herb/medcat.html>

**Erowid Herb Vaults**  
<http://www.erowid.org/herbs/herbs.shtml>

**Medicinal herbFAQ**  
<http://www.ibiblio.org/herbmed/mediherb.html>

**The Herbal Encyclopedia**  
<http://www.wic.net/waltzark/herbenc.htm>

**Richters Herbs**  
Medicinal, Culinary, Aromatic  
Plants and Seeds  
<http://www.richters.com/>

**Virginia Tech Special Forest Products Website**  
<http://www.sfp.forprod.vt.edu>



# Virginia's Forestry and Harvesting Education (SHARP) Logger Program

by Jim Kuykendall, Virginia Forestry Association

The Virginia Forestry and Harvesting Education (VF&HE) Program was implemented in April 1996 as part of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program in Virginia. The mission of Virginia's logger education program is to advance the safety and professionalism of Virginia's logging industry. Logging is one of the most dangerous professions in the nation.

The VF&HE curriculum consists of three core courses including subjects in safety, first aid, business management, sustainable forestry and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>SM</sup>, silviculture, harvest planning, and best management practices (BMP's). Loggers completing the core program earn the designation of "Virginia SHARP (Sustainable Harvesting and Resource Professional) Logger" and are listed on the new Virginia SFI Website (see *Resource Review*). Courses are designed for logging business owners and/or selected crewmembers and foresters. At least one additional course is offered each year for continuing education (*OSHA Regulations* in 1998, *Legal Issues for Loggers* and *Sustainable Forestry* in 1999, *Forest Products Trucking and Equipment Safety* and *Negotiating for Loggers* in 2000).



## Harvest Planning and Best Management Practices:

An overview of harvest planning is followed by a demonstration of the use of topographic maps (and other "tools") in planning and a field exercise where participants develop their own plans. The BMP program is conducted on a recently harvested tract. Discussion topics included local, state and federal water quality regulations, the comparison of forestry to other non-point sources of pollutants and the Virginia Dept. of Forestry BMP Manual. The participants, in small groups with the assistance of a professional forester, perform a BMP audit of the tract. Because of administrative and regulative changes to Virginia's Water Quality Law and how it is enforced, continuing education credit is given to participants who attended Harvest Planning and Best Management Practices prior to June of 1999.

An "on demand" method for scheduling training was adopted at the end of 1997. Logger groups, woodyards, sawmills and other forest industries and organizations may host training programs, for a minimum of 15 participants, at a time and site of their choice and courses are marketed to individuals in surrounding counties for each location. In addition, the *Newsletter to Virginia Loggers* is sent out quarterly by Virginia Cooperative Extension. **U**

Individuals can identify SHARP Loggers by county or loggers' last name from a searchable database. The SHARP Logger section also contains a listing of upcoming core and continuing education courses in the VF&HE Program.

Visitors may also view a listing of SFI participating companies with links to individual corporate websites. As major producers of forest products in Virginia, these companies (see table below) have committed to using only SFI trained SHARP Loggers on their own lands and on private and public lands from which they purchase timber.

### SFI Participating Companies in Virginia

- Canal Wood Corporation
- Coastal Lumber Company
- Georgia Pacific Corporation
- The Glatfelter Pulpwood Company
- Greif Brothers Corporation
- International Paper Company
- Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation
- Westvaco Corporation
- Weyerhaeuser Company
- Willamette Industries

The SFI program in Virginia provides a procedure for monitoring the performance of SHARP Loggers and SFI program companies. Examples of such inconsistent practices include apparent deviations from SFI objectives including situations that do not follow Virginia's Best Management Practices (BMPs) guidelines. The public can comment on apparent inconsistent practices by contacting the Virginia Forestry Association through the website, or by calling the Virginia Forestry Association at 804/741-0826. **U**

### SFI from page 1

The Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program (VFLEP) has its roots in SFI as well. Administered by the Virginia Tech Department of Forestry, a generous grant from the SFI State Implementation Committee initially funded what has become Virginia's flagship landowner education program. The core of VFLEP is the Forest Landowner Short Course Series which consists of three courses: *Woodland Options for Landowners*, *Sustainable Timber Marketing and Harvesting*, and *Wildlife Options for Landowners*. A web-based course will be implemented in early fall 2001 (look for details in the Summer 2001 *Update*). Since the series debut in October 1997, 60 courses have been offered in all regions of Virginia with nearly 1,200 landowners attending a course. 2001 was the most successful season yet, with over 400 private forest landowners participating in the program. Exit surveys reveal that collectively, landowner participants own over 200,000 acres of private forest land in Virginia. The impacts on these acres are significant: over 90 percent of participants will seek professional management assistance as a result of information presented during the course. In addition, participants estimate that they will earn, on average, \$60 more per acre than had they not attended a course. This

**SFI continues on page 6**

### 2000-2001 VF&HE Logger Training Summary

	2000		2001	
	completed entire program	attended at least one course	will complete program	will attend at least one course
Participants				
Logging Contractors	289	560	200	700
Logging Employees	153	288	200	300
Other	44	214	30	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>1,150</b>

To complete the VF&HE Program and become designated as a SHARP Logger, loggers must complete the following three courses:

**Logging Safety:** Five education modules (1.5 hours each) are available with the attendees to participate in four of the five. Subjects include a First Aid and CPR "Refresher," an Overview of OSHA Logging Safety Standards and Recordkeeping Requirements, Logging Equipment Safety (skidder and/or loader), Log Truck Safety (DOT requirements) and Chainsaw Safety (hazard recognition).

**Sustainable Forestry:** This course includes an in-depth discussion of sustainable forestry and the key elements for achieving this goal. An explanation of how the SFI<sup>SM</sup> program was developed and implemented follows. Discussions and presentations focus on forestry aesthetics and on how loggers may better communicate with landowners. The second part of this course is a field trip designed to introduce loggers to the basic concepts of silviculture and ecology. Offered for the first time in 1999, this course also serves as continuing education for participants who completed the training previously.

## RESOURCE REVIEW

### New Virginia SFI<sup>SM</sup> Website Debuts

[www.virginiaSFI.org](http://www.virginiaSFI.org)

Landowners who want to learn more about Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program activities in Virginia can now log onto the Virginia SFI Website. The website was recently designed using a \$50,000 communications grant to the Virginia Forestry Association and Virginia SFI State Implementation Committee from the American Forest and Paper Association.

The website is a great resource for landowners and others who want to identify SHARP Loggers trained through the Virginia Forestry and Harvesting Education (VF&HE) Logger Program. Indi-



**SFI from page 5**

results in a total potential economic impact of \$12 million for landowners who have participated in the short course series to date.

Other SFI-sponsored outreach programs include a handbook for forest landowners and a new SFI website. The handbook, entitled *Sustainable Forestry: A Guide for Virginia Forest Landowners*, has been distributed to nearly 8,000 private forest landowners, loggers, and others interested in the management of Virginia's forest lands. Copies of this publication are available through Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE pub. #420-139). A Virginia SFI website was recently developed (see *Resource Review* on page 5) and a related guide to the SFI program in Virginia will be published later this year.

**SFI and the American Tree Farm System Collaborate**

In June 2000, the SFI program and the American Forest Foundation's Tree Farm System formally recognized each other's respective standards for sustainable forest management. The American Tree Farm System represents over 60,000 private forest landowners nationwide and is the oldest certifier of sustainable forests in the United States. The mutual recognition is significant in that two of the nation's largest forestry organizations will now formally collaborate to encourage sustainable forest management on all ownership sizes. Specifically, the two organizations will cooperate to develop programs that improve the management of all private forest lands and demonstrate the environmental stewardship of SFI participants and Tree Farmers to both domestic and international markets.

As with the science of sustainable forestry, the SFI program is evolving with experience and new knowledge through research. Virginia's natural resource community has used its experience and knowledge to tailor the SFI program into a comprehensive and effective education and outreach program for forest landowners, loggers, and the public. With the aid of the state's conservation community, Virginia's forest industry and the SFI program will continue to have significant positive impacts on our Commonwealth's forest resources. **U**

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