

VIRGINIA FOREST LANDOWNER UPDATE

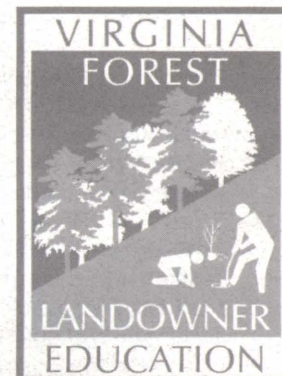
Events, news, and information promoting the stewardship of Virginia's natural resources.

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.

Calendar sponsors include:

Virginia Forestry Association (VFA)
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Tech College of Forestry & Wildlife Resources
Virginia Cooperative Extension



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HOW TO USE THE EVENTS 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 CB = Charlie Becker, New River Highlands RC&D Council). If your organization is sponsoring a program that would benefit forest landowners and/or natural resource professionals, please contact *Dylan Jenkins*, Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension, 228A Cheatham Hall (0324), Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 (phone: 540/ 231-6391; fax: 540/ 231-3330; e-mail: dylan@vt.edu).

Special Forest Products: Identifying Opportunities for Sustainable Forest-based Development

by **Tom Hammett**, Associate Professor of Forest Products Marketing
 Virginia Tech Department of Wood Science and Forestry Products



Editor's note: This article is the first in a two-part series on special forest products (SFPs). Part 1 describes SFPs and the importance of SFPs in local economies; part 2 will review the historical use of SFPs, and describe a project at Virginia Tech designed to learn more about how these products can be useful tools for economic development.

Introduction

Several opportunities for improved rural development are linked to special forest products (SFPs). In many areas rural populations have traditionally depended on local forest resources to provide additional income through collection and marketing of SFPs. Where employment opportunities from traditional industries are declining, workers looking for alternative income sources often turn to collection of these products from nearby forests. This is particularly noticeable in the Pacific Northwest where employment in the logging industry is declining rapidly. It is just as critical in Southwestern Virginia where the declining coal industry has increased the average unemployment rate to 3-4 times higher than the state average.

Unemployment will continue to increase until sustainable alternative employment opportunities are developed. Local pressure on forest resources to provide SFPs will increase without sustainable forest management programs.

Non-traditional forest products provide important employment and income opportunities in several regions. Throughout the United States, interest in collecting SFPs is growing rapidly. The floral sector employs thousands in the Pacific Northwest to collecting moss, ferns, and grasses. In southern Florida, hundreds of seasonally displaced agricultural workers collect Spanish moss for export to Europe. With little or no documentation of resources and products, the full impact on the environment and employment potential of these products has not been estimated. Less is

known about managing forests for SFPs than for traditional timber products, even though SFPs contribute significantly to rural and regional economies. The following discusses in more detail these products and their importance, and describes an effort at Virginia Tech to learn more about how these products can be useful as tools for economic development.

What are Special Forest Products?

Special or non-timber forest products are biological and generally not cultivated. They are not timber; but can be made of wood. Collected in natural forests, these products are usually harvested and processed in small amounts. These products fall within four general categories: edibles such as mushrooms; medicinal and dietary supplements, including ginseng; floral products such as moss, grape vines, ferns, and other plant products used for decorations; and specialty wood products including hand crafted products such as carvings, utensils and containers.

Mushrooms are perhaps the most well known edible SFP - but we also include in this general category many other food products gathered from the forest. Since most of these products are not traded widely and are usually collected and consumed by the harvesters themselves, it is difficult to assess their economic magnitude or potential for increased returns to landowners. These products include ferns, berries or other fruits, nuts, ramps (wild onions), herbs, and spices.

The second major category of SFPs, medicinal and dietary supplements, includes plant-based products that are processed into medicines outside the region for the U.S. and international markets. Beginning in the late-eighteenth century over 100 plant species indigenous to the U.S. were commonly accepted for their medicinal properties. The majority are

SPECIAL continues on page 6

EVENTS CALENDAR

event contact	date/location	event/description (preregistration required unless noted otherwise; TBA = to be announced)	time	fee
AAMU	Jan. 10-13 <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i>	Southern Landowner Outreach Conference. Conference designed to increase participation of under-served framers, ranchers, and forest landowners in USDA and other landowner assistance programs. Meeting topics include: outreach programs, environmental issues, preserving landownership within the family, improving and diversifying farm income, and qualifying for government programs.	all day each day	\$200.00
DC	Jan. 13 - Feb. 10 <i>Albemarle H.S. Room 237</i>	Tree Identification and Silviculture. Learn to identify 30 tree species and shrubs and their uses. Learn how and why trees grow and management techniques to improve tree growth.	6:30-9:00 pm	\$50.00
MC	Jan. 16-17 <i>Holiday Lake 4-H Center (Appomattox)</i>	Youth Forestry and Wildlife Weekend. For youth ages 9-19 and adult volunteers. Program is the introductory event for 4-H wildlife and forestry judging in Virginia. Participants will learn tree identification, wildlife foods, forest measurements, orienteering, habitat evaluation, forest health, and more.	11 am (Sat.) to 2 pm (Sun.)	\$30.00
DD	January 28 <i>Lexington HoJo (I-81, Exit 195)</i>	Rockbridge Forestry & Wildlife Association Winter Dinner Meeting. Join forest landowners and resource professionals from the Lexington area of dinner and presentation by Dr. Fred Heberd, Director of Chestnut Research Farm. Joint meeting with regional Tree Farm System landowners.	6:30-9:00 pm	call for fee
PH	Jan. 28 <i>Richmond</i>	Virginia Forestry Association General Assembly Reception. Opportunity for forestry community to meet with their state legislative representatives.	TBA	TBA
		Spring Forest Landowner Short Course Series. Three different courses offered at thirteen locations (see below). Courses will benefit forest landowners, farmers, educators, loggers, and others interested in forest and wildlife management. Courses are four three-hour evening sessions and emphasize sound sustainable resource management practices. Registration fee is \$35.00/person or couple (one set of materials). For general information contact Dylan Jenkins, VA Tech Forestry Extension, at 540/231-6391.		
		Introduction to Woodland Management: Overview of basic forest and wildlife management concepts and practices; topics include: management planning and objectives, assessing your resources, sources of management assistance, basic pine and hardwood forest ecology and management, and basic wildlife management.		
CB	TBA	<i>Abingdon</i> - sponsored by the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
PT	Feb. 2,9,16,23	<i>Glenns</i> - sponsored by the Tidewater RC&D Forestry Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
RL1	Feb. 2,9,16,23	<i>Blackstone</i> - sponsored by the Old Dominion RC&D Council	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
RL1	Feb. 4,11,18,25	<i>Keysville</i> - sponsored by the Old Dominion RC&D Council	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
PT	Feb. 4,11,18,25	<i>Warsaw</i> - sponsored by the Tidewater RC&D Forestry Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
LD	TBA	<i>Manassas</i> - sponsored by the Northern Virginia Forest Landowner Education Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
		Profitable Timber Marketing and Harvesting: Review the timber sale process with emphasis on maintaining water and soil quality; topics include: forest evaluation, cost-share and professional assistance, harvesting methods and forest regeneration, best management practices, timber sale contract terms, and timber income taxes.		
VH	Feb. 4,11,18,25	<i>Charles City</i> - sponsored by the Lower Peninsula Forest Landowner Education Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
CB	TBA	<i>Tazewell</i> - sponsored by the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
CC	TBA	<i>Wytheville</i> - sponsored by the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
		Introduction to Wildlife Management: Principles and techniques for enhancing game and non-game management on private lands; topics include: basic wildlife requirements, applied habitat ecology and management, forest practices, habitat structure, open field management, and riparian forests and corridors.		
RL2	TBA	<i>Warm Springs</i> - sponsored by the Alleghany Highlands Forest Landowner Education Comm.	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
DH	TBA	<i>Riner</i> - sponsored by the New River Valley Forest Landowner Education Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
KB	April (TBA)	<i>Accomac</i> - sponsored by the Tidewater RC&D Forestry Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
JR	TBA	<i>Louisa</i> - sponsored by the Rappahannock Forest Landowner Education Committee	6:30-9:30 pm	\$35.00
		General Quail Management Techniques for Landowners. Learn practical quail management techniques for the farm and forest. Classroom and field exercises will focus on the biology and economics of quail management.		
	<i>Two dates and locations:</i>			
DF	mid-Feb. (TBA)	<i>King William County</i>	9 am - 4 pm	no fee
DF	late-Feb. (TBA)	<i>Roanoke Area</i>	9 am - 4 pm	no fee

EVENTS CALENDAR

event contact	date/location	event/description (preregistration required unless noted otherwise; TBA = to be announced)	time	fee
		Timberland Security for Landowners.		
	<i>Six dates and locations:</i>	How can you protect your property from timber theft, arson, dumping, and other illegal activities? Learn what reputable foresters and timber buyers do to protect themselves and you.		
HO	Feb. 3	Tappahannock	6:30-9:00 pm	\$10.00
HO	Feb. 5	Rocky Mount	6:30-9:00 pm	\$10.00
HO	Feb. 8	Charlottesville	6:30-9:00 pm	\$10.00
HO	Feb. 9	Wytheville	6:30-9:00 pm	\$10.00
HO	Feb. 11	Fairfax	6:30-9:00 pm	\$10.00
HO	Feb. 19	Middletown	6:30-9:00 pm	\$10.00
DC	Feb. 17 - Mar. 17 Albemarle H.S. Room 237	Wildlife Habitat and Management. Learn to improve forest habitat for various wildlife species. Basic wildlife management principles and practical management techniques will be covered.	6:30-9:00 pm	\$50.00
		Prescribed Burning Workshops.		
	<i>Two dates and locations:</i>	Learn how to conduct a prescribed burn for wildlife and forest improvement including: fire weather, planning, behavior, safety, and equipment use.		
DF	late-Feb. (TBA)	Sussex County (this course will focus on pine thinning and understory burning)	all day	no fee
DF	mid-Mar. (TBA)	Mecklenburg County (Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area)	all day	no fee
DC	Mar. 28 - Apr. 24 Albemarle H.S. Room 237	Timber Harvesting and Reforestation. Learn information needed to evaluate your forest resources and what professional services are available. Review harvest methods, contracts, and reforestation practices.	6:30-9:00 pm	\$50.00
GP	Apr. 30 - May 2 Wintergreen Resort	Virginia Forestry Association Annual Convention. Join Virginia Forestry Association member landowners and natural resource professionals for informative, educational programs and family fun! More details in the spring <i>Update</i> .	all day each day	TBA
AL	May 2-4 Roanoke Marriott	Governor's Conference on Greenways and Trails. Program will include workshops with experts from around the country on topics such as design standards, funding, legal issues, partnerships, crime prevention, and greenway maintenance.	all day each day	TBA
LN	May 14-16 Holiday Lake 4-H Center Appomattox	Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop. Weekend offering courses in firearms, fishing, boating, map & compass, hunting, archery, outdoor photography, forest ecology, wilderness survival, dutch oven cooking, and more. Registration fee includes meals, lodging, equipment, and instruction.	all day each day	\$150.00

EVENT CONTACTS

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

event contact	name/affiliation	phone	fax	e-mail
AAMU	Alabama A&M University	800/401-2123	256/851-5030	
AL	Angela Lacombe, Virginia Greenways & Trails Conference	804/798-0045	804/798-0433	vagwayconf@aol.com
CB	Charlie Becker, New River Highlands RC&D	540/228-2879	540/228-4367	beckerc@r6.forestry.state.va.us
CC	Charlie Conner, Smyth County Cooperative Extension	540/783-5175	540/783-2151	conner@vt.edu
DC	David Coffman, Virginia Department of Forestry	804/977-6555	804/296-2369	coffmand@hq.forestry.state.va.us
DD	Don Drake, Virginia Department of Forestry	540/463-5253	540/463-5253	draked@r5.forestry.state.va.us
DF	Debbie Flippo, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries	804/598-3706	804/598-4934	dflippo@dgif.state.va.us
DH	Doug Harris, Montgomery County Cooperative Extension	540/382-5790	540/382-5729	rdharris@vt.edu
GP	Glenda Parrish, Virginia Forestry Association	804/741-0836	804/741-0838	vafa@erols.com
HO	Harold Olinger, Forest Landowners Association	804/293-7341	804/293-3772	olinwood@aol.com
JR	Jim Riddell, Louisa County Cooperative Extension	540/967-3424	540/967-3489	jriddell@vt.edu
KB	Keith Boyd, Eastern Shore RC&D Council	757/787-2786	757/787-9534	
LD	Larry Dunn, Virginia Department of Forestry	540/347-6358	540/347-6359	dunnl@r3.forestry.state.va.us
LN	Libby Norris, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries	757/253-4180	757/253-4182	lnorris@dgif.state.va.us
MC	Michael Clifford, Nottoway County Cooperative Extension	804/645-9315	804/645-9731	mjc4h@vt.edu
PH	Paul Howe, Virginia Forestry Association	804/741-0836	804/741-0838	vafa@erols.com
PT	Pat Tyrrell, Tidewater RC&D Council	804/443-1118	804/443-1511	pt@oasonline.com
RL1	Rodney Lewis, Old Dominion RC&D	804/542-5489	804/542-5976	
RL2	Rodney Leech, Bath County Cooperative Extension	540/468-2225	540/839-5893	rleech@vt.edu
VH	Vernon Heath, Charles City County Cooperative Extension	804/829-9241	804/829-9820	vheath@vt.edu

Virginia's Finest.....Loggers!

by **Bob Shaffer**, *Timber Harvesting Extension Specialist*
Virginia Tech Department of Forestry and Cooperative Extension

For more information on the Logger Merit Award, including nomination forms and instructions, contact the *Virginia Forestry Association*, 8810-B Patterson Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229-6322, phone 804/741-0836.

Suppose a Virginia forest landowner plans to conduct a timber harvest, and wants to insure that the logging firm they select will perform a top quality job. Obviously, they (or a forestry consultant, acting as their agent) should request references, and check them out. They should visually inspect other jobs recently completed by the logger. They should insist upon execution of a contract that stipulates logging quality criteria like implementation of applicable Best Management Practices (BMP's), timber utilization standards, property protection, etc. And once the contract has been signed, they should closely monitor the operation for strict contract compliance.

Additionally, there is a reliable third-party, *performance-based* indicator of logging quality readily available upon request to Virginia forest landowners. It is the Virginia Forestry Association's (VFA) list of **Logger Merit Award** (LMA) recipients. This VFA logger recognition program was first initiated in 1979. The list of LMA recipients represents the "best-of-the-best" of Virginia loggers. To receive the prestigious VFA "Logger Merit Award," loggers must meet the following criteria:

- Be co-nominated by two credible individuals who are personally familiar regarding the quality and consistency of the logger's work. These independent co-nominators should represent two separate agencies, companies, organizations or interest areas to insure impartiality.
- Participation in Virginia's SHARP Logger voluntary training and education program. This program is a key part of the forest industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and provides Virginia loggers with ongoing training and education in the areas of sustainable forestry, workplace safety, business management, and environmental protection.
- Demonstrate full adherence to Virginia's voluntary forestry "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) to protect water quality during timber harvesting, including a strong commitment to pre-harvest planning. Minimize adverse impacts to the forest site and residual timberstand.
- Demonstrate an exemplary safety attitude and good safety record, and exhibit a high level of concern for the welfare of his employees, while maintaining an efficient and productive operation. Strictly adhere to all applicable laws and regulations affecting timber harvesting.
- Conduct all operations in a sound, fair and responsible manner, and earn a consistently high level of landowner and customer satisfaction. Portray a positive image for logging in the community.

Logger Merit Award nominees are reviewed and screened each year by a select VFA committee that includes several former LMA recipients. Approved recipients are then recognized at the VFA annual meeting, and subsequently featured in an issue of *Virginia Forests* magazine

The following Virginia loggers have received the VFA **Logger Merit Award** within the past 10 years:

1998

Loyd E. Bennett, *Triplet*
Mark Martin, *Bedford*
David Morse, *Warsaw*
Reaves Timber Corp., *Coleman Falls*
Jerry D. Rose, *Courtland*
Howard J. Shelton, *Chatham*
Tapscott Brothers, *Scottsville*

1997

L&F Logging, *Dugspur*
Connell Logging & Thinning, *Broadnax*
Forest Products Inc., *Big Stone Gap*
W.D. Hackett, *Dillwyn*
T.M. Leatherwood, *Claremont*
W.E. Ragland & Son, Inc., *Scottsville*
Judd Smith, *Covington*
Willie Trusty, *Freeman*

1996

Hatcher's Logging Corp., *Big Island*
Hobbs Logging, *Whitewood*
Rhodes Logging, *Lynch Station*

1995

James Clark, *Gasburg*
W.C. Johnson, *Pittsville*
Brady Jones, *Buckingham*
Elwood Mays & Sons, *Amherst*
Piedmont Thinning & Harvesting, *Palmyra*
Clifton Morgan, *Clarksburg*
Smith & Wheeler Logging, *Spotsylvania*

1994

W.R. Bess, *Paint Bank*
C & N Logging, *Natural Bridge*
Carr Enterprises, *Grundy*
Dawson Logging, *Rustburg*
Deeds Brothers Logging, *Millboro*
Piedmont Farms Logging, *Church View*

1993

C.W. Brown, *St. Stephens Church*
R.E. Carroll, *Ebony*
William Davis, *Glade Hill*
Eugene "Buck" Hall, *Meherrin*
Harvey Logging, *Lovingston*
Kenneth Hodges, *South Boston*
Scott Shull, *Concord*
Wilkerson Wood, *Keysville*

1992

Wayne Davis, *Buckingham*
R.G. Finch, *Alberta*
S.R. Jones & Sons, *Gasburg*
Mid-Atlantic Logging, *West Point*
Walter Pillow, *Gladys*
Ronald Wright, *Ebony*

1991

Binford-Coteman Logging, *Prov. Forge*
Campbell Bros. Logging, *Natural Bridge*
Devin Logging, *Wylliesburg*
W.B. Gilman, *Ashland*
Linwood Johnson, *Providence Forge*
Lewis Bros. Logging, *McKenney*
C.W. Moore & Sons, *Courtland*
Two Brothers Logging, *Lexington*
Billy Wood, *Charlottesville*

1990

Steve "Sonny" Ashley, *Shanghai*
B.L. Bryant, *Gladstone*
E.W. Burrow, *Prince George*
Aubrey Clary, *Gasburg*
Norman Deacon, *Lexington*
Roger Dunevent, *Dillwyn*
Manley Fogg, *Newtown*
Danny Hensley, *Jonesville*
Ranza Horton, *Austinville*
Raymond Johnson, *Providence Forge*
R.D. Knighton, *Montpelier*
Pinecrest Timber, *Waverly*
James Reece, *Dugspur*
Wayne Sanders, *Fort Blackmore*
Tillman Logging, *Powhatan*
M.M. Wright Logging, *Gasburg*

1989

Roger Bolling, *Pound*
Luther Compton, *Bluefield*
Clyde & Arnold Correll, *Floyd*
Jerry Cox, *Swoope*
Ricky & Doug Deacon, *Fairfield*
Troy Hagy, *Tazewell*
Harvey Joyce, *Collinsville*

1988

Jim Abrams, *Aylett*
Goerge Asbury, *Bishop*
David Bowling, *Arrington*
Clem Brothers, *Strasburg*
H.L. Emerson, *Amelia*
John Hines, *Rice*
Holland Brothers, *Louisa*
Larry Jarvis, *Atkins*
Donald Jones, *Accomac*
Laws Brothers, *Pennington Gap*
James McDaniel, *Charlottesville*
Wendal McNew, *Dungannon*
Junior Lee Morris, *Free Union*
Benny Reid, *Lexington*
Clyde Rogers, *Doswell*
John Root, *Fishersville*
Richard South, *Gloucester*
E.E. Talbott, *Dillwyn*
Julian Waller, *Lynchburg*
Herbert Williams, *Fredericksburg*
Charles Wright, *Blackridge*

Karst Resource Protection and Forest Management

by **Terri Brown**, *Virginia Karst Project*
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Land located in the Valley-and-Ridge physiographic province, i.e., the rolling topography between the Blue Ridge and the coal fields, is among the most biologically-significant and hydrologically-interesting terrain in the Commonwealth. Much of the region is underlain by cavernous limestone and dolomite bedrock, otherwise known as *karst*. Millions of years ago, these soluble rocks were bent, fractured, and uplifted, and have since undergone chemical and mechanical weathering by circulating groundwater. The resulting three-dimensional landscape is drained through an integrated network of surface inputs and subsurface conveyances connected to down gradient springs, wells, and streams.

Virginia's karst topography is typically quite rocky, and may exhibit sinkholes (depressions with or without obvious drain holes), springs, sinking streams, and intermittent streams. Here, karst springs form the ecological basis for first-rate fisheries and other threatened aquatic habitats, and contribute to the headwaters of our major streams. In portions of the region, nearly 100% of the residents depend on drinking water supply sources recharged by karst groundwater. These facts support the position that karst areas warrant special best management practices (BMP's) to minimize nonpoint source pollution impacts from logging and construction activities.

Timber harvests conducted without regard for natural karst drainage features can cause cave entrances, sinking streams, and sinkholes to become clogged with silt and debris. The impacts could range from the disruption or contamination of down gradient water supplies to habitat destruction; and from off-site flooding caused by plugged sinkholes, compaction, and rerouted drainage, to subsidence and instability problems.

Most problems related to silviculture in karst can be avoided through comprehensive, pre-harvest planning, with an eye toward ecologically-based resource management. The first step is to accurately identify karst hydrologic features, many of which may not be recognizable unless observed under a variety of climatic conditions. Verification of topographic maps in the field is necessary, since karst features are frequently misrepresented on standard 7.5 minute contour maps. Although Virginia's geology has not been completely mapped at the quadrangle (1:24000) scale, many landowners can purchase geologic quadrangle maps of their area from the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy in Charlottesville. It is also important to collect background information on the nature of springs, caves, and streams within 1/2 mile of the project during the development of the harvest plan. Information about the existing water quality of tributaries can be obtained from your regional Department of Environmental Quality office, and Department of Conservation and Recreation can assist in obtaining information on caves in the vicinity of the project. The county soil survey reports available at the local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Centers are useful for locating small wetlands, seeps, sinkholes, and rock outcrops in the project area.

Some general characteristics of karstlands that should be noted during pre-harvest site assessments include:

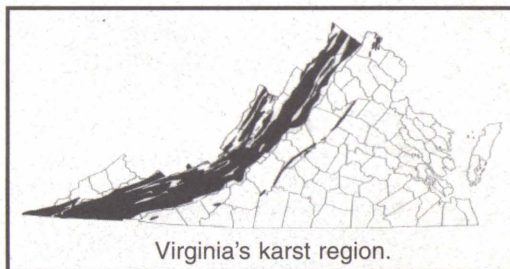
1) An overall lack of perennial first and second-order streams, where surface flow and runoff are pirated underground via sinking streams. These may appear to be dry surface channels during late summer and fall, but can exhibit sudden, voluminous flows in response to rainfall and snow melt;

2) The presence of sinkholes, closed depressions, rocky outcrops,

springs, and caves. Caves most often form where carbonate rocks are in contact with rocks of different composition, such as sandstone, shale, or granite, or where geologic faults have created zones of broken rock that enhance the infiltration of water (see geology map);

3) Varied topography. Karstlands are not always limited to the valley floors, often extending to higher elevations in the form of low, hollow ridges or the foot slopes of larger ridges.

What silvicultural BMPs can be employed to minimize damage to karst resources? Because karst soils tend to be highly erosive and easily compacted, significant karst features should be surrounded with adequate no-disturbance buffers (50 -100 feet wide). Drainage from haul roads, landings, and staging areas should be directed away from sinkholes or caves, and these areas should be revegetated with native plants following use. Vehicle fueling and maintenance areas should be located away from sinkholes and sinking streams. Woody debris & slash should not be deposited in cave entrances, but should be fashioned into semicircular sediment traps on the uphill side. This will slow runoff and prevent sediment from entering the cave, but will allow continued access by certain cave-loving species. Finally, visually monitor the water quality in surface streams and springs, and maintain erosion and sediment control structures frequently. Familiarity with your land and water resources, combined with a stewardship ethic in planning and conducting the harvest can prevent many of the nonpoint source problems that typically occur in cave country.



Virginia's karst region.

Cost-Share Program Update

Forest and wildlife management costs can be expensive. To help landowners offset the cost of installing and maintaining specific management practices, many natural resource agencies provide financial assistance, or cost-share incentive programs.

Most cost-share programs have specific requirements such as a written forest, wildlife, or farm management plan, and require that cost-shared practices be maintained for a certain time period. The following list outlines some of the cost-share programs available to Virginia landowners. Sign-up dates and other provisions change often, so check with the appropriate agency to see if your land qualifies for a particular program.

purpose	program	contact agency	sign-up dates	where applicable
environment protection	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	FSA	continuous	statewide
	Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	NRCS, FSA	TBA	statewide & targeted
wildlife	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	NRCS	continuous	statewide
	Partners for Wildlife	USFWS	continuous	statewide
forestry	Forestry Incentive Program (FIP)	VDOF, NRCS	continuous	targeted
	Reforestation of Timberlands (RT)	VDOF	continuous	statewide
water quality	VA Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program	SWCD	continuous	statewide
	VA BMP Tax Credit	SWCD	continuous	statewide
	Nutrient Management Equipment Tax Credit	SWCD	continuous	statewide
wetlands	Wetland Reserve Program	NRCS	continuous	statewide

More detailed information on Virginia's cost-share programs may be obtained through your local Virginia Department of Forestry office or on the world wide web at: <http://state.vipnet.org/dof/index.html>

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wild-harvested from the Southern Appalachian mountains and are widely traded as botanical products-many to overseas markets. Examples of these include products manufactured from sassafras, goldenseal, mayapple, slippery elm, black cohosh, white oak bark, and scores of other species.

Floral products include pine boughs, grape vines, ferns, and other plant products used for decorative applications. These unique forest products may appear in floral arrangements, dried flower decorations and ornaments or packaging. Common examples include products made from pine boughs, grape vines, moss, ferns, flowers, cones, mistletoe, and holly. Several widely marketed products are made from pine boughs collected in the forest or from trimmings of commercial Christmas tree plantations.

Virginia's Burning Law (Feb. 15 - April 30)

Controlled fire has proven to be a valuable forest management tool; controlling understory growth, reducing fuel loads, and stimulating forage production for wildlife. However, in addition to the usual precautions taken to control fire, Virginia has a burning law that affects hours of open-air burning from February 15 through April 30. Section 10.1-1142b of the fire law reads as follows:

"During the period February 15 through April 30 of each year,...it shall be unlawful, in any county or city or portion thereof organized

for forest fire control under the direction of the State Forester, for any person to set fire to, or to procure another to set fire to, any brush, leaves, grass, debris or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material capable of spreading fire, located in or within 300 feet of any woodland, brushland, or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material, except between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight..."

Contact your local Virginia Dept. of Forestry office for more information on the use of fire and the Virginia burning law.

Visit the special forest products website at:
http://www.se4702.forprod.vt.edu/special_fp/special_fp.htm

Specialty wood products include handicrafts, carvings and turnings, musical instruments, as well as utensils and containers. In general, specialty wood products are considered non-traditional if they are produced directly from trees, and not from lumber or timber purchased from mills or retail establishments. Because wood crafters may purchase logs or collect trees directly from the forest, often little is known about the impact they have on forest resources. Often produced from trees or logs collected from the forest and processed by the crafter. Products common in the Appalachian region include handicrafts, carvings, turnings, utensils, and containers (baskets), and special furniture pieces. Raw materials may include cypress knees, willow branches (for weaving), yellow poplar bark, or forked dogwood pieces.

Why This Interest In SFPs?

Sustainable environment and economic development depend directly on the diversity of investments and diversity of the ecosystem. The Appalachian region has some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world. The most ecologically diverse region in Virginia is home to more than 400 rare plants and animals. In the Eastern United States, The Nature Conservancy is supporting ecologically compatible development through the formation of the Center for Compatible Economic Development (CCED). One of three pilot programs is focused on Virginia's Clinch River valley and creating jobs in environmentally friendly small businesses, including wood products, but not SFPs. In the Pacific Northwest, non-traditional forest products are considered to be the most viable option for strengthening those rural communities suffering from the decline in timber harvests from government lands. There is an urgent need to examine the markets for these products and to integrate these findings into land-use planning and extension programs.

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