

by Rien Visser

Sorry, it's been a little while. However, the VT IFO research program remains active and strong. Here are some updates:

2004 IFO COOP Meeting Date Set

We have set the 15th of November as the IFO Coop meeting date, to be held here at Blacksburg. This is a little later in the year than usual because we have three Masters Students who will have good results to present after a summer of collecting field data. We hope you can make the meeting, see the agenda attached.

Latest Safety Results

Bob Shaffer and Tal Roberts have published the latest (02-03) results from the latest safety statistics. It appeared in the latest issue of the Forest Products Journal.

Current Projects Update

Here is a quick overview of our current research projects, please check the website for more details:

- Low-impact harvesting at the urban interface (Kris Jensen, MSc)
- Harvesting practices in the SMZ (Christine Hodges, MSc)
- Southern inspection protocols (Mary Yonce, MSc)
- Improving helicopter operations (Andy Horcher, PhD)
- E-learning: Cable logging e-learning website development (Visser)

New IFO Student – Brandon O'Neal



We have a new Masters student entering our IFO graduate program. Brandon is from Missouri and will start working on the

issue of immigrant forestry workers and the implications on safety. Bob Shaffer will be his advisor.

If you have any information (good or bad) to share on the issue of immigrant labor and safety, please contact either Bob (rshaffer@vt.edu) or Brandon (oneal@vt.edu) directly.

Tom Walbridge Scholarship Update

We have now raised just over \$20,000 (with another \$1000 pledged) of the \$25,000 needed for a named scholarship for 'Doc'. Our intention remains to have this scholarship

in place while Doc is still with us. Not that he is going anywhere anytime soon, but as he says himself, he has stopped buying green-bananas. If you would like to help make a(nother) contribution, that would be great. Please contact me or Tracey.



2004 COFE Meeting Hot Springs, AK

A 'team' of 8 of 'us' made it to this years meeting in Hot Springs Arkansas. Mary, Christine and Kris all received recognition for their student papers. They are all available under current research on our website.

Dr. Shaffer on tour to New Zealand

As this newsletter goes to press, Bob Shaffer is participating in the FRA forestry tour to New Zealand. Bob will spend two weeks examining the practices, technologies, and systems that has made New Zealand a major international competitor.

International Guest

The IFO group is currently hosting two professors, Drs Tatsuya Wachi from Japan and Reinhard Pausch from Germany. Both are helping out on research projects. Tatsuya will be with us for a year comparing labor issues between the Appalachian area and Japan, while Reinhard was here on a 4 week visit helping looking at economic decision making principles for harvesting.

Receiving the Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter as a PDF file by email in the future, and, or, if you have colleagues that would like to receive this update every three months, please contact Tracey at (540) 231-7671 or email her at tracey@vt.edu.