VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

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Changes to SHARP Logger Standards

In the April 2021 newsletter (www.sharplogger.vt.edu/resources.html), we talked about how the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) had proposed changes to their logger training standards. Those changes have been approved, and we have made some changes to the SHARP Logger Program to meet the new standards.

The biggest shift is from a 3-year renewal cycle to a 2-year cycle. Instead of earning 12 Continuing Education credits every three years, SHARP Loggers will need to earn 8 CE credits every two years to maintain their SHARP status. This change will affect you after your next renewal. For example, if you have an expiration date of 1/1/2022, you will have had 3 years and need 12 credits. But when your status renews on 1/1/2022, you will get a new expiration date of 1/1/2024 (2 years), and need 8 credits by then. It will take 3 years to switch all SHARP Loggers to the new 2-year cycle, so know that some of your coworkers will be on a different schedule than you are. We will keep you informed as these changes begin to affect you. The 3-credit SHARP Logger Update Class will remain a requirement in every renewal cycle.

We are also working on shortening the Core Program. When the new Core Program is ready, it will be two days instead of three. It will also be available as a hybrid class—those who choose to will be able to take part of the class online on-demand. We plan this change to go into effect for new SHARP Loggers in 2022.

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine

Alert! The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has enacted a quarantine for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), an invasive insect. The quarantine area currently includes the City of Winchester, Clarke, Frederick, and Warren counties. Before moving regulated items out of the quarantine area they must be free of SLF. Regulated articles include, but are not limited to, all plant parts, packing material, outdoor equipment, and vehicles- essentially anything that has been outside! Businesses can obtain a permit from VDACS to allow them to conduct self inspections. A link to the training and permit application can be found here: https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml.

VDOF Business Directory

The Virginia Department of Forestry has a new website which includes a directory of loggers, foresters, and other forestry service providers. You can sign up to have your business listed in this directory where landowners can find you. There are a few simple steps to create your account and register your business. Learn more at www.SHARPlogger.vt.edu/documents/news/website-business-directory-flier.pdf or register at https://dof.virginia.gov/register-my-business/.

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How Many Credits Do I Need?? How Can I Check My Credits??

If you became a SHARP logger before February 2021, then you must earn 12 CE credits every 3 years in order to maintain your SHARP Logger status. That must include the 3-credit, required SHARP Logger Update Class. **The number of CE credits you need is printed above your name on the mailing label.** For example, if you have earned 3 credits so far during your current 3-year cycle, your label will say "You need 9 credits." If the label says "Update Needed" then you have not attended the required SHARP Logger Update Class and need the Update before you can renew. Even if you have more than 12 credits, you must take the Update. The label will also show your expiration date. If it says your credits are due by 1/1/2021 then your SHARP logger status has expired and you must earn the required CE credits by the end of this year or else you will have to retake the Core Program to become a SHARP Logger again. You can also check your credits, Update status, and expiration date on the website (www.sharplogger.vt.edu), by typing your last name (only) in the "check credits" box at the top of the page. If your record does not come up, either you are expired or there is an error. Contact the SHARP Logger Program at sharplogger@vt.edu or 540-231-6494.

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) classes

SHARP Logger Update Class (3 CE Credits)

The SHARP Logger Update Class includes a BMP refresher, a logging safety refresher, and other topics that impact logging businesses. The training meets the "SHARP Logger Update Class" Continuing Education requirement. SHARP loggers must attend at least one of these required classes during each renewal period. This class will be offered at the following locations:

Online: Visit www.SHARPLogger.vt.edu/onlineCE.html. The Update is near the bottom, under all of the 1-credit classes. Available online, on demand.
Augusta**: July 9
Galax**: August 4
Roanoke**: . August 7, VLA Conference
Culpeper**: August 13
Russell Co.**: August 27
King & Queen**: September 17
Franklin (City)**: November 12
Southwest VA: Nov or Dec TBD

> All classes tentative. Check www.SHARPlogger.vt.edu/training.html or contact the SHARP Logger Program at SHARPlogger@vt.edu or 540-231-6494 for the most up-to-date information.

Additional CE Credit Opportunities

Mid-Atlantic Logger Training Group Webinar: 6:30-8:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month, starting May 25. Live online. (1.5 CE)
Chainsaw Field Demonstration: Southside. Friday, July 23. (6 CE)
Legal Issues for Logging Businesses**: Roanoke. August 6. Co-sponsored by VLA and Setliff Law.
Hardwood Management**: Augusta and Culpeper, following the Update Class (3 CE)
Trucking Safety**: Russell County, before the Update Class (2 CE)
Topic To Be Determined**: Galax, King & Queen, and Franklin City, following the Update Class. (3CE)

** A SHARP Logger Update and an additional CE Class will be held at this location on this date. Take either or both. A "double class" opportunity.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Karen Snape at 540-231-6494/TDD* during business hours of 8a.m. and 5p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800)828-1120

2021 Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule

The Core Program consists of classes on Sustainable Forestry, Logging Safety, and Harvest Planning & BMP's. Participants must attend all 3 core classes to become a SHARP Logger. For more information please contact the SHARP Logger Program at (540) 231-6494 or sharplogger@vt.edu.

Delivery Method	Dates	Location
In-Person	August 17 — Sustainable Forestry	Appomattox
	August 24 — Logging Safety	Appomattox
	August 31 — BMPs & Preharvest Planning	Appomattox
In-Person	TBD — September or October	Scott County
In-Person	Oct. 27 — Sustainable Forestry	Clifton Forge
	Nov. 3 — Logging Safety	Clifton Forge
	Nov. 10 — BMPs & Preharvest Planning	Clifton Forge

Registration required! For more information, contact the SHARP Logger Program at: sharplogger@vt.edu (preferred) or call 540-231-6494 and leave a message.

Check our website at www.SHARPlogger.vt.edu for the most up to date listing of classes.

Online Continuing Education Logger Training

Online trainings currently available include:

- "Invasive Insect Pests"
- "Skidder Safety & Efficiency"
- "BMPs for Temporary Haul Roads and Skid Trails"
- "Forestry BMPs: Applied Research Results"
- "How to conduct a deed search"
- "Basic Timber Cruising"
- "Basic Chainsaw Safety & Directional Felling"
- "Protecting Water Quality with BMP's in Virginia"
- "Laws Affecting Water Quality and Forestry Operations in VA"
- "Limbing and Topping Safety"
- "SHARP Logger Update Webinar"

To view the trainings, visit **www.sharplogger.vt.edu/onlineCE.html**. Review the instructions, then select the training you want to complete. After completion there will be instructions on how to receive CE credits.

TIP Post this list near your computer or tape it to your laptop and check them off as you go to avoid repeats. Now that we have ten classes, you'll only get credit for each class once per renewal cycle!

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VA Tech College of Natural Resources & Environment
www.cnre.vt.edu

VA Cooperative Extension
www.ext.vt.edu