

# Virginia SHARP Logger Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 2

May 2025

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## Video Newsletter

Scan this QR code with your phone to watch a video of someone reading this newsletter.

## Virginia Logger's Association Update

by Ron Jenkins

The year 2025 is a landmark for loggers and haulers who want to use Virginia's interstate highways to haul the maximum legal weight of unrefined forest products from tract to mill. We do not believe anyone has ever sponsored a bill in Congress to authorize hauling the maximum legal weight of 90,000 pounds of forest and unprocessed agricultural crops on just Virginia interstates. Congressman John McGuire won Congressional District 5 seat in November and made it his priority that his first bill would be for loggers.

Congressman McGuire's bill is H. R. 1487 and was assigned to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and referred by committee to the subcommittee on Highways & Transit. Ensuring H. R. 1487 becomes law in 2025 is the greatest priority of the Virginia Loggers Association. However, like most important accomplishments the VLA needs your help. We would like to ask you to contact your representative in Congress and tell them how important passage of H. R. 1487 would be to your business.

You can quickly and easily reach your representative in Congress by going online to <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>. You can also contact Ron Jenkins anytime at [info@valoggers.org](mailto:info@valoggers.org) or 804-677-4290.

## A Safety Short

By Pat Donnelly, WVU

As some people may say "communication is the key to a lasting relationship." This is also the case on a logging site. There must be the ability to contact everyone on the crew if needed, whether it be cell phones, handheld radios, or CB's. I can relate to you many stories where a worker was hurt and could not contact someone due to no service or no radios at all. Take the time to make sure whatever you choose to use works everywhere on your job. If an accident happens you will be glad you did!

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

Everyone getting this newsletter is on an 8-credit, 2-year renewal cycle. Everyone must take the required SHARP Logger Update Class in every renewal cycle. **The number of CE credits you still need is printed above your name on the mailing label.** 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 enough credits, you must take the Update.** The label will also show your renewal date. If it says your credits are due by 1/1/2025 then your SHARP logger status has expired and you must earn the required CE credits by the end of this year or you will have to retake the Core Program to become a SHARP Logger again.

You can also check your credits, Update status, and renewal date on the website ([www.SharpLogger.vt.edu](http://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 your SHARP status is expired or there is an error. Contact the SHARP Logger Program at 540-231-6494 or [SharpLogger@vt.edu](mailto:SharpLogger@vt.edu).

## Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule

The Core Program consists of classes on Sustainable Forestry, Logging Safety, and Harvest Planning & Best Management Practices. Participants must attend both core sessions to become a SHARP Logger. For more information or to register, please contact the SHARP Logger Program at (540) 231-6494 or [SharpLogger@vt.edu](mailto:SharpLogger@vt.edu).

Core 1	Core 2	Location
July 9	July 10	Alberta, Brunswick County
Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Clifton Forge (tentative)

## Articles Continued

### Virginia's Hardwood Initiative

Article by Joe Rossetti, Virginia Department of Forestry

Timber Stand Improvement, or TSI, is a generic term foresters use to communicate ways to make the forest better. The last several newsletters have included an article on different types of TSI, and in this article we'll cover another, crop tree release. Crop trees can be chosen for several objectives such as economic, wildlife or aesthetic. The technique works the same regardless: Select and release the trees with the best traits for your objectives. These are your crop trees.

After crop trees are selected and marked, competing trees are cut or treated with herbicide. Competing trees are those that have a crown that is touching or is close to touching the crop trees' crowns. Trees that are entirely underneath the crop trees are not competing for light and don't need to be controlled. Once competing trees are cut, the crop trees have space to expand their crowns, grow faster and provide more benefits to the landowner sooner.

Crop tree release is best done in young, dense hardwood stands where the trees are about 3-6 inches in diameter, but the practice can be used with trees of any size. Important factors to consider when choosing crop trees are the species, stem quality, spacing between trees, and how many to find. Crop trees should always have crowns in the forest canopy.

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## Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) Classes

### SHARP Logger Update Class (2 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. 2 hours & 2 CE credits. This class will be offered at the following locations:

- **Courtland:** July 11, 2025. Followed by Timber Cruising Basics
- **Raphine, Augusta County:** July 30, 2025. Followed by Sustainable Forestry Topics
- **Blacksburg:** August 9, 2025. During the VLA Annual Meeting
- **Russell County:** September 5, additional credits offered
- **Southside TBD:** September 11. Followed by Chainsaw Safety Demo
- **Colonial Heights:** November 7, additional credits offered

### Other CE Classes

- **Timber Cruising Basics:** Courtland, 7/11/2025, following the SHARP Logger Update Class.
- **Sustainable Forestry Topics:** Raphine, Augusta County, 7/30/2025, following the SHARP Logger Update Class.
- **Chainsaw Safety Demo:** Southside TBD, 9/11/2025, following the SHARP Logger Update Class
- **Log Grading:** West Point, 9/19/2025. Times and CE credits TBD

### Online CE Classes

There are currently 10 one-credit SHARP online trainings available on the SHARP online training webpage at [www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/OnlineCE.html](http://www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/OnlineCE.html). The SHARP Logger Update Class is available under all of the one-credit classes. SHARP loggers can also get CE credit for viewing Mid-Atlantic Logger Training Webinars. MALT webinars are available from West Virginia Cooperative Extension, with a link and instructions for creating a free user account on the SHARP online training webpage.

### Articles Continued

*Virginia's Hardwood Initiative, continued from page 2*

Try to pick trees at least 20 feet apart and concentrate on picking the best ones. 35 to 40 crop trees per acre is usually plenty. This work can be done with a brush saw, chainsaw or herbicide. A pesticide applicator's license is needed to apply herbicide commercially for a client. Girdling is not a reliable method to control competing trees, as girdled trees often grow over the damage and survive. Therefore, felling or herbicide are the only methods used.

Many hardwood forests have been harvested hard enough to result in regeneration, even if that wasn't part of the plan. Those stands will normally benefit from crop tree release to maximize growth on the best trees. While loggers don't often work in small diameter hardwood stands, this could be an opportunity for you and your crew to provide more services for your landowners and work on days when mills aren't taking wood. If you'd like more information, please contact Joe Rossetti at [Joe.Rossetti@DOF.Virginia.gov](mailto:Joe.Rossetti@DOF.Virginia.gov).



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Find more information online at [www.SharpLogger.vt.edu](http://www.SharpLogger.vt.edu)

### Articles Continued

#### Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Repeal

The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services has lifted the Spotted Lanternfly quarantine within the state. It was decided that the quarantine was not helping to slow the spread of the invasive insect because they are now found in most of the state. People who are transporting products to markets outside of Virginia may still face quarantines enacted by those other states or countries. For more information, please visit [www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spotted-lanternfly.shtml](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spotted-lanternfly.shtml) or contact the VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services at (804) 786-3515.

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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.