

VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

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Changes in the SHARP Logger Continuing Education Requirements

At the last Virginia SFI implementation committee meeting, we decided to make a change to the SHARP Logger Continuing Education (CE) requirements. All SHARP loggers will now be required to attend at least one “face to face” update class at some point during their 3 year renewal cycle. Many of the details have not been worked out yet, but the general concept is for the required update class to include information on changes and updates on topics such as BMPs, logging safety, or other relevant topics. This new requirement will be enforced starting with SHARP loggers that have a 1/1/2018 renewal date. This required class would be a three hour long class, so SHARP loggers could still earn 9 of their 12 required credits through other training opportunities including our online trainings or attendance at other workshops. We are still working on the process for this and I am sure there will be some questions as we go along, but I think these changes will be an opportunity to provide the most up to date and useful information to logging businesses. In the next newsletter I hope to have more information on these new required update classes. As always, if you have questions, feel free to call or email me at sbarrett@vt.edu.

New Forest Products Hauling Permits are Effective as of July 1, 2015

As many of you have probably heard by now, Virginia’s Forest Products Hauling Permit will be available as of July 1. Changes made during the past Virginia Legislative session enabled this new permit. With the new permit, trucks hauling forest products and meeting specific criteria will be able to have a gross weight of up to 90,000 pounds. Additional details on this new permit can be found on the VA Forestry Association website at: http://vaforestry.org/vfa_advocacy.html

Virginia Loggers Association

The Virginia Loggers Association (VLA) recently announced the appointment of a new Executive Director. Ron Jenkins began serving as the Executive Director of the VLA on April 1. Ron recently retired from the VA Department of Forestry after 35 years of working for the agency. If you are not familiar with the VLA, I encourage you to take a look at their website to find out more about the organization. If you are interested in becoming involved in the VLA you may also want to mark your calendars for the VLA annual meeting which will be held at Wintergreen Resort on August 28-29. Additional information can be found on their website at www.valoggers.org or by calling Ron Jenkins at (804) 677-4290.

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) classes

The number of CE credits you need is printed above your name on the mailing label. As a reminder, SHARP loggers must earn 12 CE credits every 3 years in order to maintain their current SHARP logger status. So for example if you have earned 3 credits during this 3 year period, your label will say "You need 9 More CE credits before January 1, 20XX." If it says you need credits before 1/1/2015 then your SHARP logger status has EXPIRED and you must earn the required CE credits by the end of this year or else you would have to retake the core program to become a SHARP Logger again.

Trucking Workshop (3 CE Credits)

This workshop will focus on trucking and will include a speaker from the DMV to discuss the new Forest Products hauling permit. In addition VDOT will talk about logging entrance permit requirements. A State Police motor carrier trooper will discuss their trucking safety enforcement program, common issues found on truck inspections, and can answer questions related to motor carrier requirements.

This workshop will be offered at the two locations listed below.

Appomattox - August 6, 1-4 PM

Chatham - August 14, 1-4 PM

For more information or to register, contact Brooke Warrington at 540-231-6494 or Email: bwarring@vt.edu

GPS for Loggers & Foresters (6 CE Credits)

This workshop will begin with an introductory session covering the basics of using a GPS. The second half of the workshop will cover GPS and Google Earth Mapping techniques in a lab classroom setting. GPS units will be provided for use during this class.

This class will be offered at the two locations listed below,

Alberta SVCC Campus—September 11, 9AM—4PM (lunch on your own)

Lynchburg, CVCC—October 13, 9AM-4PM (lunch on your own)

For more information or to register, contact Brooke Warrington at 540-231-6494 or Email: bwarring@vt.edu

Road Workshop (6 CE credits)

September 29, Cumberland, VA 9AM-4PM.

This workshop will focus on forest roads for logging operations. It will include discussion of BMPs for protecting water quality, recent road BMP related research, as well as road maintenance and BMP implementation. It will include both an indoor session as well as a field session to visit a recent road construction project.

For more information or to register, contact Brooke Warrington at 540-231-6494 or Email: bwarring@vt.edu

Additional CE classes will be planned for later this year in other parts of the state, so stay tuned and we'll have more class listings in the next newsletter.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Scott Barrett 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*

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 get in touch with the registration contact listed for the class you would like to attend.

| Location | Dates | Registration Contact |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| South Boston, VA | July 31, Aug. 7, and Aug 13, 2015 | Brooke Warrington at 540-231-6494 or Email: bwarring@vt.edu |
| Additional dates for Core classes will be posted later as they are scheduled. | | |

Online Resources

This section highlights websites with information useful to logging business owners

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

www.dmvnow.com

DMV permits, including the new Forest Products hauling permit can be purchased on the DMV website. To purchase permits online, go to the DMV website and under the heading of "Commercial Services", click on "Motor Carriers". On the motor carriers page, click on "Hauling Permits". On the hauling permits page under the section for "Obtaining a Permit", you will need to click the link for "online". At this point you will need to either logon, or register to create an account for purchasing permits online.

Online Logger Training

A new online training on Limbing and Topping should be available in December 2014.

Online trainings available so far include:

- "Forestry BMPs: Applied Research Results"
- "Protecting Water Quality with BMP's in Virginia"
- "Laws Affecting Water Quality and Forestry Operations in VA"
- "Basic Timber Cruising"
- "How to conduct a deed search"
- "Basic Chainsaw Safety & Directional Felling"

To view the trainings, visit www.sharplogger.vt.edu and click "Online Training". Review the instructions, then select the training you want to complete, after completion there will be instructions on how to receive CE credits.

Another online training opportunity is available by completing an online **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** training. This training is approved for **1.5 CE credits**, but is offered through a different organization, so if you complete this training, you must email your certificate of completion to bwarring@vt.edu or Fax it to 540-231-3330.

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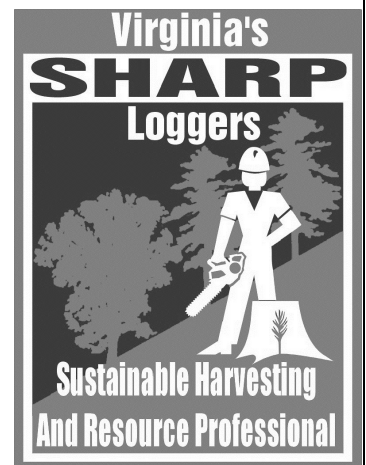
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Find more information online at
www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu

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