

VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

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New SHARP Logger Online Training Added

We frequently ask loggers for suggestions for new trainings that would benefit their operations. Our most recent online class, “How to Conduct a Deed Search” is a direct result of a suggestion we received from a SHARP logger at a meeting last year. Matt Brinckman did an excellent job putting this training together and we are glad to be able to offer it as our newest online training. I hope you will find that it is useful to you and I hope that if you have ideas for other trainings that would benefit you, please let us know.

The next online training which we are currently developing will be a basic chainsaw safety and directional felling training with Bryan Wagner from Forestry Mutual Insurance Company. That training should be available online by late spring or early summer.

CSA Program Reminder

By now, many of you are aware of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s (FMCSA) new CSA program. You may have originally heard of it as CSA 2010, however it is now simply titled CSA, and stands for Compliance, Safety, Accountability. FMCSA regulates all commercial carriers with vehicles over 10,000 pounds which travel across state lines (interstate) as well as all vehicles transporting hazardous material even if they stay within their home state (intrastate). If your trucks travel interstate, have a DOT number, or carry Hazardous Materials, then you will likely need to become more familiar with the new CSA program. The CSA program does not contain any new regulations, but is a change in how existing regulations are enforced and its changes will have impacts on drivers as well as company owners. For more information on the new CSA program, visit the FMCSA website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov, or go to the SHARP Logger website to find the link on the “resources” page. Many truck stops also have printed information about the CSA program available for drivers.

SHARP Logger renewal and CE Credit reminder

By now, everyone whose SHARP logger status renewed on 1/1/11 should have received a new SHARP Logger card. If you have not received yours yet, let us know and we can get a new card for you. If your renewal date is coming up this year or next, now would be a good time to check to make sure your CE credits are accurate and if you’ll need more CE credits to renew your SHARP logger status, pay attention to upcoming classes so you can earn those CE credits before your renewal date.

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) classes

Notice that the number of CE credits you need is printed above your name on the mailing label, this is the number of CE credits that you still need to earn before your renewal date. 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 1/1/2011 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.

The following is the list of currently scheduled CE classes for 2011. Additional CE classes are planned and will be posted in future newsletters and online as they are scheduled.

BMP Issues & Practical Solutions (3 CE Credits)

This class will include a refresher on BMP's for water quality and focus on recent information from the VDOF's BMP audits and will highlight the successes of BMP implementation as well as areas which need more focus to improve implementation.

This training will be offered at the following locations:

Pattonsville (Scott Co.) February 22, 5-8 PM

Haysi (Dickenson Co.) February 28, 5-8 PM

Lebanon (Russell Co.) March 1, 5-8 PM

To register for any of the programs listed above, contact Bill Worrell at the Russell Co. Extension Office at 276-889-8056 or E-mail bworrell@vt.edu

Chainsaw Safety Workshops (6 CE Credits)

An in-woods chainsaw safety program is scheduled at the following locations. This class will be taught by Bryan Wagner, a former logger, and currently a full time logging safety trainer for Forestry Mutual Insurance Company. This class will focus on effective techniques for improving safety and productivity. This class will include demonstration of the open face notch for directional felling using a controlled release back cut. This class will also focus on techniques for limbing, topping and bucking to improve safety and productivity. The instructor will fell trees during the class, so hard hats are required. **Pre-registration is required and space may be limited.**

Fluvanna County Area May 12, 2011. To register, contact the Madison County Extension Office at 540-948-6881

Emporia Area June 30, 2011. To register, contact Neil Clark at the Southampton County Extension Office at 757-653-2572

Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule

The following Core classes have been scheduled for 2011. If you know of anyone who needs to complete the core program to become a SHARP logger, please pass this information along to them. The core program consists of classes on Sustainable Forestry, Logging Safety, and Harvest Planning & BMP's. Participants must attend all 3 of the 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
Lawrenceville	March 11, 18, and 25	VCE Halifax Co. Office 434-476-2147
Clintwood Area	March 18, 25, and April 1	Bill Worrell - VCE Russell Co. 276-889-8056
Galax Area	August 2011	Bill Worrell - VCE Russell Co. 276-889-8056
Eastern Virginia	Fall 2011	Neil Clark VCE Southampton Co. 757-653-2572

Online Logger Training Update

As of the end of 2010 there were 3 online trainings available for SHARP Logger Continuing Education (CE) credits. Those online trainings saw a substantial amount of use during December of 2010 as many SHARP loggers earned the remaining CE credits they needed to complete their CE requirements before the end of the year.

The initial 3 trainings have been completed over 500 times (some people completed multiple trainings, so the total number of users is less than 500).

- 97 % of online training participants so far have ranked the trainings as either "Very Easy" or "Not too bad" to complete
- 99 % of participants indicated that they would like to use online training programs again.

With the success of the initial classes we plan to continue to offer additional online training programs as one option for earning CE credits.

Online trainings available so far include:

- "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"

To view the currently available trainings, visit www.sharplogger.vt.edu and click on "Online Training". You will need to review the instructions, then simply click on the training you would like to view. At the end of the training there will be instructions on how to submit for CE credits.



www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu

Visit us on the web to find more useful information.

You can check your CE credits, complete online classes, find the most up to date list of upcoming SHARP Logger classes and find links to other related websites and sources of information.

Be sure to visit the "Resources" page of our website to find links to other information.

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VFA & VLA Membership Reminder

Membership in the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) or the Virginia Loggers Association (VLA) can count for 1 CE credit per 3 year SHARP Logger renewal period. If you are a member of both organizations you could earn a total of 2 CE credits per 3 year period. The full SHARP Logger CE requirements can be found on the SHARP logger website or you can get a copy by calling Scott Barrett at 540-231-6494.

The Virginia Forestry Association

The VFA is dedicated to “Promoting stewardship and wise use of the Commonwealth’s forest resources for the economic and environmental benefits of all Virginians.”

Additional information as well as membership applications can be found at

www.veforestry.org

Or by calling 804-278-8733



The Virginia Loggers Association

The VLA is “Dedicated to education, training and promoting a better understanding of the Forest Products Industry to the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

Additional information can be found at:

www.valoggers.org

Or by calling 434-589-1942

**VIRGINIA LOGGERS
ASSOCIATION**



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VLA