

VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

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New SHARP Logger Online Chainsaw Safety Training

Many SHARP Loggers have attended one or more of the chainsaw safety and directional felling trainings offered by the SHARP logger program with instruction by Bryan Wagner from Forestry Mutual Insurance Company. We have worked with Bryan and Forestry Mutual to develop an online training covering the basics of chainsaw safety and directional felling. This training is presented at an introductory level and is intended as a refresher for those who have already attended a chainsaw safety training and as an introductory class for those who have not had formal chainsaw training. The training covers required PPE, safety features of the saw, reactionary forces, proper hinge for directional felling and more. More advanced trainings are planned for later. The training counts for 1 SHARP logger CE credit and can be found on the SHARP logger website at www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu

Emerald Ash Borer Training

By now, many of you have probably heard of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive exotic species first discovered in the U.S. in Michigan in 2002. This insect has devastated ash trees in Michigan and the Midwest and experts predict that without effective suppression efforts it could spread to 25 Eastern U.S. states in the next 10 years. A key to slowing the spread is early detection and rapid response, which requires education of citizens and resource professionals. If you would like to learn more about the emerald ash borer, there is a free online training developed by several experts at Virginia Tech. This training is offered through a national online training site and is different than the SHARP logger online classes, but it does count for **1.5 SAF CFE credits** and SHARP loggers who would like to complete the training can submit their certificate of completion to earn **1.5 SHARP logger CE credits**. Instructions and a link to the training can be found at <http://www.hort.vt.edu/eab>

“Celebrity Loggers” Online Survey

Many people have been talking lately about the popularity of “reality” television shows featuring logging operations. Some people think these shows are good for the industry and raise public awareness of logging operations, while others think that the programs focus only on negative aspects and give the public a bad impression of logging operations. Based on conversations I’ve had with different groups, there doesn’t seem to be a whole lot of agreement about the impact that these shows have, and people’s opinions sometimes vary depending on which of the TV shows you are discussing. I’d like to know your opinion about “Reality TV” logging shows. If you would like to voice your opinion, take a couple minutes to fill out our online survey and tell us what you think. I’ll share the results in the next SHARP logger newsletter. A link to the survey is located on our website at www.SHARP logger.vt.edu

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. A few additional CE classes are planned for the Fall/Winter 2011 and will be posted in future newsletters and online as they are scheduled.

Invasive and Exotic Species Workshop (6 CE Credits) (Sussex or Southampton Area) 9AM-4PM August 19.

This workshop will include an overview of invasive and exotic species as well as endangered species in Virginia and will include indoor and field sessions. For more information or to register, contact Matt Brinckman at 540-231-3592 or E-mail mdbrinck@vt.edu

Logging Safety Awareness (3 CE Credits) Clifton Forge, September 15th 3-6PM. This workshop will include discussion on several logging safety topics including recent trends in logging accidents. For more information or to register, contact Matt Brinckman at 540-231-3592 or E-mail mdbrinck@vt.edu

BMP Update (3 CE Credits) 9 AM—NOON—& GPS Workshop (3 CE credits) 1-4PM, Augusta Co. Sept. 22

This program will include an update on Virginia's BMPs for water quality and the second training will include an introduction to GPS and participants will learn the basics of GPS and will learn to use a recreational grade GPS unit. You can attend either one or both classes. To register, Contact the VCE Madison Co. Office at 540-948-6881

Chainsaw Safety Workshop (6 CE credits) September 27 Halifax Co. Area. This workshop will be held in the field and will cover chainsaw safety and directional felling techniques to improve productivity and safety. To register, contact the VCE Halifax County Office at 434-476-2147 or Email jasonf@vt.edu

Negotiating Skills (3 CE Credits) Noon—3 PM and BMP Update (3 CE Credits) 3-6 PM Madison Co. October 19.

This program will include a workshop on negotiating skills for loggers and the second training will be an update on BMPs for water quality in Virginia. You can attend either one or both classes. To register, contact the VCE Madison Co. Office at 540-948-6881

Basic Timber Cruising (3 CE Credits) and Overview of Biomass Harvesting (3 CE credits) - Oct. 20th Cascade,

VA. The timber cruising workshop will be an introductory level class and participants will learn the basic concepts of estimating timber volume. The biomass class will include an overview of biomass harvesting and use and will include information on characteristics of biomass harvesting operations in VA. You can attend either class or both for a total of 6 CE credits. For more information or to register, contact Matt Brinckman at 540-231-3592 or E-mail mdbrinck@vt.edu

Basic Timber Cruising (3 CE Credits) and Overview of Biomass Harvesting in VA (3 CE credits) October 28th Buckingham, VA To register, contact Matt Brinckman at 540-231-3592 or E-mail mdbrinck@vt.edu

Area Logger Day—Henry County (6 CE Credits) December 2 This workshop will include an indoor session with a discussion of logging safety topics and then will go to the field for chainsaw safety and directional felling refresher. For more information or to register, contact Matt Brinckman at 540-231-3592 or E-mail mdbrinck@vt.edu

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
Galax Area	August 11,18,&25	Bill Worrell - VCE Russell Co. 276-889-8056
New Kent	September 16, 23, & 30	Neil Clark VCE Southampton Co. 757-653-2572

Online Logger Training Update

The number of Continuing Education (CE) classes offered online continues to grow and we are glad that this new training option is helpful for many of you. So far the comments are very positive, most people are finding it easy to complete the trainings and many loggers have added comments that they would like to see us offer more online training. If you have ideas for an online training that you would like to see us offer, please E-mail me at sbarrett@vt.edu or give me a call at 540-231-6494.

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”
- “Basic Chainsaw Safety & Directional Felling”

In the near future, these trainings will also be available through the VA LEAF (Links to Education About Forestry) website. Instructions and a link will be available from the SHARP Logger website once the VA LEAF online training site is available.

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