

VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

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End of Year CE Credit Reminder

As a reminder, if your SHARP Logger renewal date is coming up on 1/1/2012 and you still need additional CE credits, there are still a few classes scheduled before the end of the year, but there are also other ways to earn CE credits other than scheduled SHARP logger classes. We have five separate online classes that count for 1 CE credit each, so a total of 5 CE credits can be earned online. You can also join the VA Loggers Association or the VA Forestry Association for 1 CE credit each. Additional info on the VLA and VFA is listed on the back of this newsletter. If you have not earned the required CE credits by your renewal date, then you will be dropped from the list of current SHARP loggers. However the SHARP logger program allows you up to 1 year after your SHARP logger status expires to regain your SHARP status simply by earning the CE credits you needed. If you have any questions about your renewal or SHARP logger status, please feel free to call Scott Barrett at 540-231-6494 or email sbarrett@vt.edu

Thousand Cankers Disease Quarantine Expanded

In the last newsletter I mentioned that there was a quarantine in effect to prevent the spread of a newly introduced pathogen of walnut trees referred to as Thousand Cankers Disease. The quarantine has now expanded to include Goochland, Hanover, and Powhatan Counties as well as the city of Colonial Heights. This is in addition to the originally quarantined areas of Chesterfield and Henrico counties as well as the city of Richmond. The quarantine affects material from walnut trees (genus Juglans) and prohibits movement of walnut out of the quarantine area. There are specific exemptions as well as a process to apply for a permit to move quarantined material out of the quarantined area. If you plan to harvest walnut in the quarantined area you should become familiar with the quarantine requirements. Additional information can be found on the SHARP logger website where you can download the details of the quarantine.

VDOF Releases 2011 State of the Forest report

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) has recently released their annual State of the Forest report which highlights many of the VDOF's accomplishments for the year. In addition it includes some great information about the state of our forests in Virginia. For example, the net growth of forests in Virginia continues to exceed the amount harvested despite some of the challenges our forests face. The report highlights some of those challenges, including a number of forest pests and forest health issues. One of the other key challenges is loss of forest land. Over the past 10 years, VA has lost an average of 16,000 acres of forestland each year. You can find this report on the VDOF website at www.dof.virginia.gov.

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 CE classes for the remainder of 2011. Additional classes will be scheduled in early 2012 and will be listed in this newsletter as well as online on the SHARP logger website at www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu

Area Logger Day (6 CE Credits) Henry County, December 2 This workshop will include an indoor session with a discussion of logging safety topics including recent trends in logging accidents. This class will also include discussion on how to use the Virginia Logger Safety Checklist Booklet to help meet OSHA Logging Safety training and record keeping requirements. The second half of the class will be in the field and will include a 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

Logging Safety Awareness and OSHA Refresher: 1-4 PM (3 CE Credits) December 7, Franklin, VA

This class will include multiple logging safety related topics and will include discussion on recent trends in logging accidents as well as how to use the new Virginia Logger Safety Checklist Booklet to help develop a safety training program and document OSHA training requirements. For more information or to register, contact Matt Brinckman at 540-231-3592 or E-mail mdbrinck@vt.edu

Overview of Biomass Harvesting in Virginia 4-7 PM (3 CE credits). December 7, Franklin, VA

(This class will be immediately following the Logging Safety Awareness class listed above. You can attend either one for 3 CE credits or attend both for a total of 6 CE credits). This class will include an overview of utilizing woody biomass for energy. It will also include information on characteristics of biomass harvesting operations in Virginia based on results from a 2010 survey of loggers producing biomass in the southern Piedmont region of Virginia with discussion on how loggers in different regions may adapt their operations for harvesting biomass. This class will also include information on anticipated local markets for biomass. For more information or to register, contact Matt Brinckman at 540-231-3592 or E-mail mdbrinck@vt.edu

Logging Safety Awareness and OSHA Refresher: 1-4 PM (3 CE Credits) Dec. 16, Wise County Area

This class will include multiple logging safety related topics and will include discussion on recent trends in logging accidents as well as how to use the new Virginia Logger Safety Checklist Booklet to help develop a safety training program and document OSHA training requirements. For more information or to register, contact Bill Worrell at 540-889-8056 or E-mail bworrell@vt.edu

Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule

All planned core programs have been completed for 2011. If you or anyone you know, needs to complete the core program, feel free to give us a call so we know where the needs are for the core program and can plan our schedule for 2012.

2012 Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule Coming Soon

Save the Date: Richmond EXPO will be held May 18 and 19, 2012 from 9AM-5PM Daily

The Virginia SHARP Logger Program will again have a booth at the Richmond EXPO located at the Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond, VA. SHARP loggers that attend the EXPO and sign in at the SHARP logger booth can receive 3 CE credits for EXPO attendance. We will be located with the other Virginia Tech exhibitors and as soon as we receive confirmation of our booth location, we will post it in the next newsletter and on our website. Additional information about the EXPO can be found at www.exporichmond.com We look forward to seeing you at the Richmond EXPO.

Online Logger Training

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 (**L**inks to **E**ducation About **F**orestry) 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

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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.vaforestry.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