

VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

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Results of the SHARP Logger Survey

During the summer of 2009, the VA SHARP Logger program mailed a survey to all current SHARP Loggers. Nearly 60 percent of all SHARP Loggers completed and returned that survey to us. I want to express my gratitude to you for doing so. That type of response rate is outstanding and gave us great data to work with. The results will help us to improve the SHARP logger program, to better understand the logging workforce in Virginia, and will help to raise the level of awareness of Virginia Loggers.

Just a few of the results that some of you may find interesting. Of all the survey respondents, 477 indicated they were the owner of a logging business. Of the 477 logging business owners,

- Average age was 48.6 years old
- 86 % were full time logging contractors
- Average weekly production across the entire state was just over 20 loads per week per crew, however this varied by region. Average production in the mountains was 11 loads per week, piedmont loggers averaged about 22 loads per week and in the coastal plain, average production was a little over 32 loads per week.
- The level of mechanized harvesting showed similar differences across regions. In the mountains, 91 percent of loggers reported that the most common way the felled timber was with a chainsaw. Manual chainsaw felling dropped to 36% in the piedmont and only 9% in the coastal plain.
- When asked to rank potential SHARP Logger CE classes in terms of usefulness, the top classes were BMP's for Water Quality, Stream Crossing Options, Chainsaw Safety, and Equipment Safety.

Additional results from the SHARP logger survey will be posted to the SHARP logger website as those publications become available. Thanks again to all of you who took your time to complete the SHARP Logger survey!

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Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) classes

With the new format of this newsletter, we are still working out some of the issues with printing the CE credits you have earned, so please be patient, this may change again in the future. For now, you should notice that the number of CE credits you need is printed right above your name on the mailing label. Please note, 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 your label will say "You need 9 More CE credits before January 1, 20XX."

The following is the list of currently scheduled CE classes. Additional classes will be advertised as they are scheduled throughout the year.

Location	Description (CE Credits)	Dates	Registration Contact
Charlottesville	BMP Issues & Practical Solutions (3 CE)	2/22/10 9AM-Noon	Scott Barrett or sharplogger@vt.edu
	This program will cover 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.		
Charlottesville	GPS Workshop (3CE)	2/22/10 1-4PM	Scott Barrett: 540-231-6494 or sharplogger@vt.edu
	This introductory class covers the basics of using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, and how to use GPS to obtain coordinates of a location, find acreage, distance, and navigate to a location. Participants that meet eligibility requirements may apply to be reimbursed by the VDOF for 50% of the cost of purchasing a GPS unit (up to \$65 reimbursement).		
Tazewell	BMP Workshop (3 CE)	2/22/10 5-8PM	Bill Worrell 276-889-8056 or bworrell@vt.edu
	This will be a refresher on DOF enforcement and procedures related to water quality laws and will focus on issues which commonly cause water quality concerns in the area along with suggestions for improving BMP implementation.		
Haysi	BMP Workshop (3 CE)	2/23/10 5-8 PM	Bill Worrell 276-889-8056 or bworrell@vt.edu
	Same program as described above		
Richmond	Richmond EXPO (3 CE Credits)	May21 & 22	Sign in at Booth #74 Commonwealth building
	For additional information on the EXPO see page 4 of this newsletter.		
Nelson County	Area Logger Day (6 CE Credits)	6/17/10	VCE Madison Co. 540-948-6881
	This program will be a combination of indoor and outdoor events and will cover safety topics such as required PPE, Lock Out/ tag out, recent injuries and incidents and will include a field exercise on chainsaw safety and directional felling using the open face notch. A similar program is offered at the Danville location below.		
Danville	Area Logger Day (6 CE Credits)	9/21/10	VCE Halifax Co. 434-476-2147
	Same program as described above. For more information contact the VCE Halifax Office		
S.E. VA. Exact location TBA	Logging Safety Awareness (3 CE)	7/7/10	Neil Clark 757-657-6450 EXT. 406
	This program will include discussions of multiple logging safety topics including recent trends in logging accidents and injuries.		
Scottsville	GPS Workshop and BMP Issues & Practical Solutions (3 CE Each)	8/20/10	
	The same GPS and BMP programs described above will also be offered again later in the year in Scottsville. For more information or to register, contact the VCE Madison Co. office at 540-948-6881		

2010 Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule

We have recently completed the Core SHARP logger Program Schedule for 2010. 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
Stuart	March 12, March 19, and March 26	Bill Worrell 276-889-8056 Or E-mail bworrell@vt.edu
Duffield	April—DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED	Bill Worrell 276-889-8056 Or E-mail bworrell@vt.edu
Farmville Area	August 27, Sept. 3, & Sept 10	VCE Halifax Co. 434-476-2147 or E-mail jasonf@vt.edu
West Point Area	Sept. 17, Sept. 24, October 1	Neil Clark 757-657-6450 EXT. 406 or E-mail southeast@vt.edu
Louisa	December 2, 9, 16	VCE Madison Co. 540-948-6881

Online Logger Training Update

The last SHARP logger newsletter mentioned our online Continuing Education classes which we now have available. Two classes were developed in cooperation with the VDOF and can be viewed from the SHARP Logger Website. The classes are "Protecting Water Quality with BMP's in Virginia", and "Laws Affecting Water Quality and Forestry Operations in Virginia".

Combined, these classes have been viewed nearly 100 times. SHARP loggers that have completed the classes so far have overwhelmingly indicated that the classes are easy to use, they would like to use online classes again, and have told us that it saves time and money compared to traveling to a class. While we have no intention of replacing "face to face" classes, we do intend to offer more online classes as another option to help SHARP Loggers earn the CE credits they need.

To complete the online classes go to our website at www.sharplogger.vt.edu On the home page, click on "Online Training", then review the instructions and click on the class you would like to view. Each class will count for 1 SHARP Logger CE credit, for SAF Certified Foresters, each class will count for .5 CFE credit. Follow the instructions online to submit for SHARP CE credits. You will need to have your SHARP Logger number to submit for CE credit.

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EXPO Richmond 2010 May 21, & May 22 2010

The SHARP logger program will again be offering 3 hours of CE credit for attending the East Coast Sawmill and Logging Equipment Exposition at the Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond, VA on May 21 & 22. The EXPO is co-sponsored by the VA Forest Products Association and Virginia Cooperative Extension. The EXPO will feature “the newest and most advanced machinery, equipment and technology in the forest products industry”. Visitors to the EXPO can complete their EXPO registration online at **www.exporichmond.com** or through registration forms in industry trade magazines. Onsite registration is available for a small fee.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to receive SHARP logger CE credit, you must visit the SHARP logger booth and sign the SHARP logger registration sheet. This is separate from the EXPO registration.

The SHARP logger Booth will be located in the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources display area and will be **Booth # 74 in the Commonwealth building**. While you are there you can stop and visit with us and other VA Tech Forestry Extension displays, Wood Science and CNR alumni displays as well.

Also note that you will only receive 3 SHARP Logger CE credits, even if you attend both days of the EXPO, so please just sign in once at the SHARP logger display in Booth # 74.

Hope to see you at the EXPO!