

# Virginia SHARP Logger Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 4

November 2024

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## Video Newsletter

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to watch a video of someone reading the newsletter.



## SHARP Logger Survey

It's survey time! By now you should have gotten the 2024 SHARP Logger Survey in the mail. Every five years, we survey all of the active SHARP Loggers to learn about your operations and how we're doing meeting your needs for training. This year, Scott is working with a graduate student, Temitope Ogana, to answer these questions and others. Temitope is sending out 1,330 surveys and she hopes to get a really good response rate. We would like for everyone in the program: loggers, foresters, and others, to fill out just the first page and send it back. Logging business owners can help us out by also filling out the other three pages, which should take less half an hour total. You must be at least 18 to complete the survey, and SHARP Loggers will receive **1 CE credit** for completing and returning the questionnaire. The envelopes have a number on them that Karen will use to give you **1 CE credit** for completing the survey. If you have any questions, you should reach out to Scott at 540-231-6702 or sbarrett@vt.edu. The survey is completely voluntary, and we really appreciate your help.

## A Safety Short

*Article by Pat Donnelly, patrick.donnelly1@mail.wvu.edu*

How many times have you started a chainsaw? If you are like me, literally thousands of times. Were most of those starts using the drop start method? The hardest thing for me was to change from that to one of the methods approved by OSHA and many insurance companies. The first is the crotch start method (not as bad as it sounds). First make sure your PPE is on and ready, set the chain break, hold it between your legs, one hand on the handle and one on the pull cord, and start from there. The second is on the ground with your foot through the back handle and then the same as above. Each one of these keeps you in a safe place if something should go wrong. Have your crews use this each and every time and soon it will become habit. You will be glad you did!

## How Many Credits Do I Need? How Can I Check My Credits?

Everyone with current SHARP status is now on an 8-credit, 2-year renewal cycle. If your SHARP logger status expired on 1/1/2024, then you might still need to earn 12 total credits. Everyone must take the required SHARP Logger Update Class in every renewal cycle. **The number of CE credits you still need is printed above your name on the mailing label.** If the label says "Update Needed" then you have not attended the required SHARP Logger Update Class and need the Update before you can renew. **Even if you have more than enough credits, you must take the Update.** The label will also show your renewal date. If it says your credits are due by 1/1/2024 then your SHARP logger status has expired and you must earn the required CE credits by the end of this year or you will have to retake the Core Program to become a SHARP Logger again.

You can also check your credits, Update status, and renewal date on the website ([www.SharpLogger.vt.edu](http://www.SharpLogger.vt.edu)), by typing your last name (only) in the "check credits" box at the top of the page. If your record does not come up, either your SHARP status is expired or there is an error. Contact the SHARP Logger Program at 540-231-6494 or [SharpLogger@vt.edu](mailto:SharpLogger@vt.edu).

## Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) classes

### SHARP Logger Update Class (2 CE Credits)

The SHARP Logger Update Class includes a BMP refresher, a logging safety refresher, and other topics that impact logging businesses. The training meets the "SHARP Logger Update Class" Continuing Education requirement. SHARP loggers must attend at least one of these required classes during each renewal period. Shortened to 2 hours & **2 CE credits**. This class will be offered at the following locations:

**Colonial Heights:** November 8

**Martinsville:** December 13

**Courtland:** December 13

**Online:** on demand under the 1-credit classes at [www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/OnlineCE.html](http://www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/OnlineCE.html)

### Additional CE Credit Opportunities

**Legal Issues:** Colonial Heights (11/8). Combined with the SHARP Logger Update Class.

**\*New!\* Logging for Wildlife:** Farmville, 12/6. 4 CE credits.

**Topics in Sustainable Forestry:** Martinsville, (12/13), & Courtland (12/13)

All classes tentative. Check [www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/training.html](http://www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/training.html) or contact the SHARP Logger Program at [SharpLogger@vt.edu](mailto:SharpLogger@vt.edu) or 540-231-6494 for the most up-to-date information.

## Core SHARP Logger Program Schedule

The Core Program consists of classes on Sustainable Forestry, Logging Safety, and Harvest Planning & BMP's. Participants must attend both core sessions to become a SHARP Logger. For more information or to register, please contact the SHARP Logger Program at [sharplogger@vt.edu](mailto:sharplogger@vt.edu) or (540) 231-6494.

Core 1

Core 2

Location

Classes are being planned for 2025.

**Registration required!** For more information, contact the SHARP Logger Program at: [sharplogger@vt.edu](mailto:sharplogger@vt.edu) or 540-231-6494.

**Check our website at [www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu](http://www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu) for the most up to date listing of classes.**

## Online Continuing Education Logger Training

There are currently 10 one-credit SHARP online trainings available on the SHARP online training webpage at [www.sharplogger.vt.edu/onlinece.html](http://www.sharplogger.vt.edu/onlinece.html). The SHARP Logger Update Class is available under all of the one-credit classes. SHARP loggers can also get CE credit for viewing Mid-Atlantic Logger Training Webinars. MALT webinars are available from West Virginia Cooperative Extension, with a link and instructions for creating a free user account on the SHARP online training webpage.

## Virginia's Hardwood Initiative

*Article by Joseph Rossetti, Virginia Department of Forestry*

Timber Stand Improvement, or TSI, is a generic term foresters use to communicate ways to make the forest better. The last several newsletters have included an article on different types of TSI, and here is another: Liberation.

Liberation is removing the remaining overstory after a forest has regenerated. Some harvests are intended to regenerate a forest but leave trees in the overstory for a time to protect the new seedlings. Other times forests are high-graded or get a diameter-limit cut, resulting in a regenerated forest even though it wasn't the intention. After several years, the new saplings will be stunted by the trees remaining from the last harvest. Controlling those trees remaining from the last harvest liberates the saplings from the shade of the overstory, hence the name Liberation.

When the remaining overstory is made up of trees with value, they can be sold. Often they don't have value because of poor form, damage, or undesirable species. They need to be controlled whether they have value or not. If they can't be harvested, they can be cut and left, girdled, or herbicided and left as standing dead trees until they fall on their own.

When the trees fall on their own or are cut, they will damage regeneration. While we don't want excessive damage, there are always plenty of saplings and some damage is unavoidable. Luckily, a young, regenerated hardwood forest has plenty of saplings naturally. The damage will serve as a pre-commercial thinning.

Many hardwood forests have been harvested hard enough to result in regeneration, even if that wasn't the intent. Those stands will normally benefit from removing the remaining overstory to liberate the saplings and maintain their good growth. This could be a way for you to get repeat work for landowners you harvested for in the past. Some landowners will follow-up their first harvest with Liberation. If you couldn't merchandize the wood, how much would you charge someone to liberate their saplings?



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Find more information online at [www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu](http://www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu)

### Fifteen Minutes in the Forest

Ever since COVID shut down in-person events in the Spring of 2020, the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program has been creating 15-minute videos. We now have over 100 videos starring most of your favorite VCE people (Jen, Adam, Jason, Neil, Bill, and Karen) and covering topics including forest management, invasive species, silvopasture, soils, wood products, and a variety of native plants and wildlife. While meant for landowners, we've shown several in SHARP classes, and have found they're popular with teachers. The series recently earned a silver award from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals. Take a 15-minute break and enjoy a video at <http://www.youtube.com/c/VirginiaForestLandownerEducationProgram>.

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