

Virginia SHARP Logger Newsletter

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Video Newsletter

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



SHARP Website Changes Coming

The SHARP Logger Program is working with IT experts at Virginia Tech to upgrade the SHARP Logger website (www.SharpLogger.vt.edu). We plan to make it easier to search for loggers and display classes taken. We are still figuring out what else we will upgrade. Let us know if you have ideas for something you'd like to see us add to the website, and look for more details in the May newsletter and a better website experience starting over the summer.

A Safety Short

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

The value of a pre-shift inspection can be realized very quickly. Most everyone reading this checks the fluids, but what about a walk around just to make sure everything is OK? I have been on several jobs where if this would have happened it could have saved a lot of time and money. I will throw this out there to you: a broken piece on your track. You tram all the way out to your cutting area, and you throw a track, as luck goes the furthest point from the landing! If you would have seen it at the landing, it could have been dealt with then and there and saved you all the hassle. Take the time to check things out, you have a lot of money invested in your equipment, and it pays to stay on top of it!

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: Pre-commercial thinning.

Pre-commercial thinning causes trees to grow bigger crowns and grow faster in diameter. It can change species composition by removing undesirable trees. *[continued page 3]*

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

Everyone getting this newsletter is on an 8-credit, 2-year renewal cycle. 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 1/1/2025 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), 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.

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:

Clifton Forge: March 19, 2025, 12noon-4pm. Followed by Trucking/Transportation Refresher class.

King & Queen: April 4, 2025, 12noon-4pm. Followed by Topics in Sustainable Forestry.

Halifax: April 11, 2025, 8:30-10:30am. Followed by tour of Huber mill and lunch. Limit 35 people.

Culpeper: April 17, 2025, time TBA. Followed by Topics in Sustainable Forestry.

Online: on demand under the 1-credit classes at www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/OnlineCE.html

Additional CE Credit Opportunities

Trucking/Transportation Refresher: (2 CE credits). Clifton Forge. 3/19/2025, following the SHARP Logger Update Class.

Topics in Sustainable Forestry: (2 CE credits). King & Queen. 4/4/2025, following the SHARP Logger Update Class.

Topics in Sustainable Forestry: (2 CE credits). Culpeper. 4/17/2025, following the SHARP Logger Update Class.

Logger Appreciation Event: Mill Tour (2 CE credits), followed by lunch. Huber Engineered Woods, Crystal Hill, Halifax. 4/11/2025, following the SHARP Logger Update Class. Limit 35 people.

Log Grading: West Point. 9/19/2025. Times and CE credits to be determined.

All classes tentative. Check www.SharpLogger.vt.edu/training.html or contact the SHARP Logger Program at 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 or (540) 231-6494.

| Core 1 | Core 2 | Location |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| April 1, 2025 | April 2, 2025 | Reynolds Homestead, Patrick County |

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

Check our website at www.SharpLogger.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. 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, continued from page 1]

A forest that's been pre-commercially thinned will have higher quality, desirable species and be much more valuable.

Pre-commercial thinning is done to reduce the number of trees to a specific target-per-acre and should be done before a stand reaches commercial size. When selecting what to remove during pre-commercial thinning, it's important to leave trees that are of a valuable species and good stem quality. Since many hardwoods need competition to grow straight, it's also important to leave enough trees so the canopy closes again in several years.

Hardwood trees should be at least 20 to 25 feet tall to do pre-commercial thinning. Time required for trees to reach this target height will depend on how good the growing site is and how fast the desired species grow.

Hardwoods will re-sprout after cutting. Sometimes resprouting is beneficial if the species is desirable browse. If sprouts are not desired, trees can be treated with herbicide to prevent sprouting.

Many hardwood forests have been harvested intensely enough to result in regeneration, even if it wasn't an intentional result. Those stands can benefit from pre-commercial work to maintain good growth and improve stand quality. While loggers don't often work in small-diameter hardwood stands, this could be an opportunity for you and your crew to provide more services for your landowners and work on days when mills aren't taking wood.

If you'd like more information, please contact Joe Rossetti at Joe.Rossetti@DOF.Virginia.gov.



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Find more information online at www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu

Red Imported Fire Ant Quarantine Expansion

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is responsible for controlling invasive pests. In late May 2025, they will expand the quarantine area for Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA). Counties from Halifax and Charlotte to James City, York, and Virginia Beach are already under quarantine. In May, the quarantine area will expand to include Pittsylvania and Danville, Nottoway, Chesterfield, Prince George, Surry, and Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Hopewell. Lee County will also be included in the Fire Ant quarantine. The quarantine prohibits transporting loose soil, (including when on logs or equipment), hay or straw stored on the ground, and other possibly infested materials out of the quarantine area.

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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