

Virginia SHARP Logger Newsletter

Volume 23, Issue 1

February 2024

Virginia Tech
College of Natural Resources & Environment
Dept. of Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation
(MC0324)
Cheatham Hall, RM 228
310 West Campus Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Karen Snape and Scott Barrett
Virginia SHARP Logger Program
www.SHARPlgger.vt.edu 540-231-6494



Video Newsletter

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



Three Years of SHARP Logger Program Changes

Three years ago, the national Sustainable Forestry Initiative made changes to their standards for logger training. Since SHARP is Virginia's SFI-recognized training program, we had to make changes too. The biggest change was moving from a 3-year Continuing Education cycle to a 2-year one. To keep things fair, we also decreased the number of CE credits needed from 12 to 8. Most recently, we also shortened the required SHARP Logger Update Class by 1/3rd, from 3 hours/3 CE credits to 2 hours/2 CE credits. At this time, all SHARP Loggers in good standing are on the 2-year, 8-credit schedule. This means that everyone will need to complete the Update Class plus 6 additional credits every two years. If your SHARP status expired on 1/1/2024, please get in touch to find out what you need to do.

A Safety Short

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

I watched as the loader operator was putting a load of poplar peelers on a truck. The time was late June, and the bark was coming off the poplar. One of the logs slid through his grapple and hit the ground. The luck of the Irish was with him that day as the log hit the ground with a thud and not with the sound of crunching metal! The same holds true in winter; icy logs have a scary tendency to slip out of the grip of a grapple also. With so many young people in our industry now, take the time to explain to them some of the things that happen seasonally on our jobs. If they have never worked in the woods before, your experience can not only be vital to them doing a good and safe job but also giving them more ability to become a valuable employee!

Richmond Logging Expo

This year, the East Coast Sawmill and Logging Equipment Exposition (EXPO Richmond) will take place April 12 & 13 at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell. This is about a month earlier than recent years, at a new location that also hosts the State Fair. Sign in at the SHARP Logger booth to earn 2 CE credits. The SHARP Logger Program will also offer the required SHARP Logger Update Class once each day. Learn more: www.ExpoRichmond.com.

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), 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 credits. This class will be offered at the following locations:

Clifton Forge: March 20. 2 CE credits

Doswell: April 12 & 13 at the Richmond Logging Expo, Meadowview Event Park. 2 CE credits.

Additional CE Credit Opportunities

Opportunities are being planned.

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.

(articles continued)

What is Heir’s Property?

Heir’s Property is land that has been passed down through generations informally. It happens when a person does not have a will, their will is not written well, or is not carried out right. All of a person’s children or grandchildren (possibly dozens of people) may have part ownership of the property, but no one has clear title. It can happen in any family, but is especially common for Black Virginians, who have not always had access to legal help. What happens if one owner wants to sell timber, but the others do not? Woodland can get tied up and be unmanageable. Or a timber buyer might accidentally steal timber from part-owners he doesn’t know about. The land is also at risk of being lost through forced sale. If your family or one you work with is facing an heir’s property situation, learn more from workshops led by VSU: VSUsmallFarms.com/vsu-heirs-property.

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
Tuesday, February 27	Tuesday, March 5	Galax
Friday, March 15	Friday, March 22	Courtland
Thursday, March 28	Friday, March 29	Appomattox
April TBA		Southwest Virginia
Thursday, June 6	Friday, June 7	Elkton

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

Check our website at 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. 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.

(articles continued)

Virginia's Hardwood Initiative

Article by Joseph Rossetti, Virginia Department of Forestry

Foresters have been fighting fires for 100 years. A primary reason for the founding of the US Forest Service and state forestry agencies, Virginia DOF included, was to suppress wildfires. But for thousands of years before, hardwood forests burned regularly, and probably enough to impact tree regeneration and shape the development of today's forests.

Prescribed fire has been used for decades in pine management to prepare for planting and to suppress hardwoods in the understory. Adopting prescribed fire in hardwood stands has been slower, but it benefits oak forests primarily in two ways.

Acorns start growing best when they are on bare soil and covered with leaves, or when the leaves on the ground are less than an inch thick. In many oak forests, the leaves on the ground are several inches thick, sometimes as many as 6 inches! When acorns start growing a root, it doesn't do well if it has to go through up to 6 inches of leaves before getting to soil. Prescribed fires reduce the thickness of the leaf layer, helping oak seedlings get a better start.

Once started, these trees put a lot of energy into growing large root systems as seedlings so they resprout well after being top-killed by fire. Their biggest competitors don't put as much energy into root systems early, so they don't grow as well following fires. *[continued on page 4...]*



Virginia Tech
College of Natural Resources & Environment
Dept. of Forest Resources & Environmental
Conservation (MC0324)
Cheatham Hall, RM 228
310 West Campus Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24061

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060
PERMIT NO. 28

Virginia SHARP Logger Newsletter

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

(Virginia's Hardwood Initiative continued)

...Coincidentally, oak and hickory leaves on the ground are very flammable. So, the trees that fire helps regenerate successfully also make conditions in the forest that promote fire.

As another benefit, fires can reduce trees in the midstory, but it's been absent from the forest for so long that it is best used in combination with other activities, like Mid-story Removal written about before. That helps get the benefits from fire faster.

Not all fires are equal, and they do have their challenges. Obviously, they have to be planned and carried out by experienced and knowledgeable people. If you're curious whether prescribed fire can help the forest you're working in or your client, contact your local DOF staff or a private Certified Prescribed Burn Manager.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

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