

VA SHARP Logger Newsletter

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New Feature!

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

Virginia Department of Forestry BMP Cost-Share Program

VDOF's Logger BMP Cost-Share Program was funded at the highest level yet for the 7/2022 – 6/2023 and 7/2023 – 6/2024 program years. Funding for the program comes from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund, which is administered by Virginia DCR.

The Logger BMP Cost-Share Program helps cover the cost of BMPs on stream crossings. The program will help cover labor, equipment, and material costs. To be eligible, a logger must be current on their SHARP Logger training, not have any outstanding penalties or past due bills owed to VDOF, and have no water quality issues on any tracts on which they are operating.

Due to the increased funding and cost of materials, the cost-share rate has increased as well. The cost-share will provide up to 75% of the actual cost (not to exceed \$6,000) for BMP Implementation at the stream crossing, and if the crossing requires the purchase of a portable bridge then the maximum increases to \$12,000. Previously, a logger was limited to one project per program year. During these two years, a logger can have two projects per program year, one with a bridge purchase (\$12,000) and one for BMP installation (\$6,000), total cost-share not to exceed \$18,000 per program year per tax identification entity.

A one-page flyer is available on the VDOF website: www.dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/FT0047-Logger-BMP-Cost-Share-Program.pdf. Contact your local Water Quality Engineer or Specialist to sign up for this program.

Article by Rod Newlin, rod.newlin@dof.virginia.gov

A Safety Short

"I only wear it on steep ground." That is the excuse I get from most operators. A few do not even have a seatbelt in their machine! They are there for a reason, whether it is on steep ground or flat. There are a lot of dangers on a logging job — why not practice the ones that you can control, the wearing of a seatbelt, each and every time? They are easy to use, readily accessible, and in most cases easy to replace if needed. It will make a REAL difference if something goes wrong while skidding, pushing in a road, or cutting some big trees with a hot saw for yourself or a member of your crew!

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

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

We are almost finished shifting everyone to an 8-credit, 2-year renewal cycle. If you became a SHARP logger in 2020 or last renewed your status on 1/1/2021, then you still must earn 12 CE credits for your 1/1/2024 renewal. Everyone else must earn 8 CE credits every 2 years. Everyone must take the 3-credit, required SHARP Logger Update Class in every renewal cycle. **The number of CE credits you 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 1/1/2023 then your SHARP logger status has expired and you must earn the required CE credits by the end of this year or else 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.

Upcoming Continuing Education (CE) classes

SHARP Logger Update Class (3 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. This class will be offered at the following locations:

Elkton, Rockingham County: May 12, 9am-12pm. Followed by Topics in Sustainable Forestry.
Register by 5/1 for free lunch.

Courtland, Southampton County: July 14, 12-4pm. Includes bonus 1 CE Wildlife Talk.

Castlewood, Russell County: August 25, 11am-4pm. Includes bonus 1 CE Special Topic. Register by 8/18 for free lunch.

Lynchburg: September 19 (tentative), 9am-12pm. Followed by Topics in Sustainable Forestry.

Online: Visit www.SHARPLogger.vt.edu/onlineCE.html. The Update is near the bottom, under all of the 1-credit classes. Available online, on demand.

Additional CE Credit Opportunities

Topics in Sustainable Forestry: Elkton, Rockingham County. May 12, 1-4pm. 3 CE credits.
Following the SHARP Logger Update Class.

Topics in Sustainable Forestry: Lynchburg. September 19 (tentative), 1-4pm. 3 CE credits.
Following the SHARP Logger Update Class

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.

2023 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

Thursday, August 17

Friday, August 18

SVCC, Alberta, Brunswick County

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. SHARP loggers can also get CE credit for viewing Mid-Atlantic Logger Training Group 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 from page 1)

Virginia's Hardwood Initiative

Virginia's hardwood forests are a great and substantial resource. They make up about 80% of all Virginia timberland. The largest group of hardwood forests is Upland Hardwoods, characterized by oaks, hickories, and yellow-poplar, making up about 60% of all timberland. Many loggers make your entire living harvesting from and helping landowners manage these Upland Hardwood forests.

You see, perhaps better than anyone else, that these forests are changing. Oaks are declining, non-native plants are invading, and the small trees in the forest mid-story are different species than the canopy. Deer are hungry and eat everything, including the leaves of the yellow-poplar trees cut down yesterday! What will the future hardwood forest look like?

The VDOF, along with partners, has started a Hardwood Initiative to put a greater focus on actively managing hardwood forests so tomorrow's forest is as productive and valuable as today's forest. We want landowners to meet all their goals. We want all wildlife to find suitable habitat. And we want all of this to happen in a productive, valuable forest supporting a strong forest products industry.

In the next several issues of the SHARP Logger newsletter, look for information on hardwood management, what we're encouraging landowners to do, and why. This will help us work together to improve Virginia's hardwood forest, and perhaps you can find ways to provide additional services some landowners will want and need.

Article by Joe Rosetti, joe.rosetti@dof.virginia.gov.



**Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**

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

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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