

Virginia SHARP Logger Newsletter

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Virginia Tech
College of Natural Resources & Environment
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(MC0324)
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Video Newsletter

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



DOF Directory

The Virginia Department of Forestry is no longer giving landowners locally-kept lists of timber buyers and other service providers. All DOF offices use the same directory, and you must register to be in the directory. The website to register is: dof.virginia.gov/register-my-business/ (you must include the slash at the end). Contact your local DOF staff with any questions.

Changes to Required SHARP Logger Update Class

Beginning in January 2024, the required SHARP Logger Update Class will go from a 3-hour, 3-credit class to a 2-hour, 2-credit class. By January 1st, everyone will have switched to the new 8 credits every 2 years renewal cycle. By lowering the number of credits in the Update, it will still be ¼ of the credits needed. We hope that the class will be faster paced and hold everyone's interest. The current *online* Update Class is three hours long, and we are working on making a 2024-25 version that will feature fresh videos and be two hours long. This should reduce some of the technical problems folks have been having with the online platform. When practical, in-person Update classes will be paired with another 2-credit class. By taking one "double class" per year, a person will be able to easily keep up with their renewal requirements.

A Safety Short

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

Even if you do not work in a cold climate, the mud and dirt will eventually clog up the steps on your equipment. The biggest culprit being the skidder. I have watched a number of operators slip off mud-packed steps and slam their shins into those same steps. Doesn't feel good, does it? Without telling too much on myself, I have done it too – and I smacked my head! Luckily, I was wearing my hardhat and suffered more wounded pride than body. Keeping your steps clean and readily useable is a simple affair and should be performed each day to keep it quick and simple. Owners, lead by example and keep the equipment you are paying for functional and safe for its intended purpose. You will be amazed at how many people will follow your lead when they see the boss doing it! Stay safe, we are all in this together!

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 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:

Colonial Heights: November 10 at Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum. Followed by Legal Issues. Register by 11/3 for sponsored lunch.

Martinsville: December 8 sponsored by Teal-Jones Pine Products. Followed by Topics in Sustainable Forestry. Register by 12/1 for sponsored lunch.

Additional CE Credit Opportunities

Legal Issues: Colonial Heights. November 10 at Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum. 2 CE credits.

Topics in Sustainable Forestry: Martinsville. December 8. 3 CE credits.

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.

All classes tentative. Check www.SHARPllogger.vt.edu/training.html or contact the SHARP Logger Program at SHARPllogger@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

Tuesday, February 27

Tuesday March 5

Abingdon, Washington County

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

Check our website at www.SHARPligger.vt.edu for the most up to date listing of classes.

(articles continued)

Virginia's Hardwood Initiative

Article by Joseph Rossetti, Virginia Department of Forestry

Oak regeneration can be difficult to establish. Oaks regenerate through large, advanced regeneration. Seedlings spend years growing a large root system before growing stems quickly. During their early years, they can be easily outcompeted by faster growing trees like Yellow Poplar, Sweetgum, and Black Cherry, especially if they get lots of light. Good advanced regeneration is saplings six feet tall and nearly an inch in diameter at the ground. Once the seedlings are that big, they're ready for lots of light to compete into the canopy. In fact, even if seedlings that size were cut, they'd resprout strongly and compete well against faster growing trees. Foresters like to see at least 350 oak seedlings per acre like this before harvesting the overstory. With that many, we are confident oaks will make up the next stand.

To grow oaks that big in the understory, they need more light than typically makes it to the ground. Whatever light comes through the canopy is often used by trees in the mid-story, like American Beech, Red Maple, American Holly, Blackgum, Hickory, and others. We may be tempted to say they'll get more light on the forest floor if we cut trees in the overstory and left the mid-story trees. But what actually happens is the mid-story trees are the ones that benefit from the additional light. They grow larger crowns, shade the ground, and eventually grow into the canopy. Not enough light makes it to the ground to help the oak seedlings.

Instead, removing the mid-story will get more light to the ground to grow oak seedlings. As a side benefit, keeping the trees in the canopy means there's still seeds for wildlife food and more tree seedlings. Mid-story removal can be done with herbicides or cutting. Each method has benefits. Sometimes it's done or maintained with fire, but more on that next time.

Talk to your forester about how and when to do Mid-story Removal. It's needed in lots of forestland, and some landowners and foresters are looking to have it done.



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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