



VLA



Spring 2017 Issue

VA Loggers Association Newsletter

What's Inside

Welcome New Members
Page 3

Important Dates
Page 3

VA Forestry Department
Page 4

News and Updates - Scott Barrett
Page 5

Member Profile
Page 6

VA Department of Transportation
Page 7

Investing in our youth
Page 8

Safety Spot
Page 9

Supporting Members
Page 10

2017 Annual Convention
Page 11

LOGGERS AT CAPITOL HILL

VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION "GAME CHANGERS" MEET THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON, DC AND FOLLOW UP WITH GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE!



Donnie Reaves, Congressman Bob Goodlatte, Laurie & Vance Wright, Nannette & Ron Jenkins

On March 30 – April 1, members of the Virginia Loggers Association, along with the American Loggers Council, met in Washington, DC with coordinated efforts to present issues important to the timber harvesting industry to lawmakers up on Capitol Hill. Five members from Virginia and approximately 80 from around the nation were in attendance, including representatives from ALC sponsors Forestry Mutual and the Southern Loggers Cooperative.

Congressman Bob Goodlatte, serves Virginia's 6th Congressional district. The Virginia Loggers Association has a long standing conversation over state legal weight limits on interstate highways with Congressman Goodlatte and his staff. He offered his support to help find a way to increase weights on interstate highways.

A record setting 155 hill visits included discussion on major issues such as the recently introduced Future Logging Careers Act, Truck Weight reform, comprehensive U.S. Forest Service wildland fire suppression funding and land management reform, biogenic carbon neutrality and regulatory reform.

On Wednesday VLA members met with Congressman Dave Brat, who serves Virginia's 7th congressional district, and his staff. Congressman Brat and his staff were very helpful to our small group. Following our meetings in Washington, DC, Congressman Brat signed on as a co-sponsor to HR 1454 (Youth in Logging Careers Act).



Vance & Laurie Wright, Nannette & Ron Jenkins
Congressman Dave Brat, Donnie Reaves

On Thursday morning, ALC members were briefed on the issues by ALC staff and were joined by Forest Resources Association President Deb Hawkinson and Director of Government Affairs Ryan Rhodes. Thursday visits included many face-to-face meetings with House of Representative members Bob Goodlatte, Tom Garrett and Rob Wittman and key staff with discussions on introduced legislation, pending VLA/ALC priorities and other legislation currently under development. Virginia and other state association representatives tailored their unique state perspectives on each of the primary issues.



Vance Wright, Donnie Reaves



VLA

Newsletter

Continued from Page 1

On Friday, VLA members concluded their meetings with the House of Representatives and our two Virginia Senators. Following Friday morning visits, members gathered at a Friday afternoon de-briefing session and also heard presentations from Bob Cleaves, President of the Biomass Power Association; Bill Imbergamo, Director of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition; Erica Rhoad, Staff Director for the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, and were given an update on the Team Safe Trucking program by Forestry Mutual member Jimmie Locklear. Congressman Rob Wittman serves Virginia's 1st congressional district (nicknamed "America's First District because Jamestown is included), stretching from the suburbs of Washington to the Hampton Roads. Rob serves on the Committee of Natural Resources: Subcommittees of Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs and Energy and Mineral Resources.



Ron & Nannette Jenkins, Congressman Rob Wittman, & Donnie Reeves



Vance and Laurie Wright met with Congressman Thomas Garrett who represents Virginia's 5th Congressional District. Tom has already signed on as cosponsor for the Youth in Logging Careers Act and expressed his strong support for increasing state legal weight limits on interstate highways.

Members from all 32 state associations debrief others on their experience with their congressional delegation. Virginia elected representatives and their staff were gracious hosts who listened attentively to our issues.



Vance Wright, President of VA Loggers Association

VLA WORK IN PROGRESS!



Top Left to Right: Frank Myers, Chad Shelton, Ron Jenkins, Vance Wright, Brandon Widener, C. K. Greene, Cassidy Rasnick.
Bottom Left to Right: Binky Tapscott, Kirk Richardson, Terry McAuliffe, Buck Morris, Gary Robertson

On Saturday morning, the ALC Board of Directors met for their spring board meeting where committee chairs presented their updates and strategies were discussed to pursue further action on all legislative priorities. A resolution supporting sustainable forest management of the national forests to produce timber for the purpose of manufacturing cross laminated timber for building a border wall, as well as providing for forest health and economic well-being in rural communities was introduced and will be voted on during the next Board meeting to be held in July. ALC President Ken Martin remarked that "this is the largest gathering of members in Washington, DC in our 23 year history. The ALC continues to grow in membership and representation, and it is very rewarding to see the traction and credibility that we are gaining here in Washington." ALC Executive Vice President Danny Ductor stated that he was "very pleased with the efforts of all that attended," and that "once again we have shown that we are ["loggers working for loggers."](#)

Following our meetings with the Virginia congressional delegation, many of our board members met with Governor Terry McAuliffe and debriefed him on our results. We also asked for his support to increase state legal haul weights on interstate highways. The right to haul the state legal weights of forest products on our interstate highways is the number one priority for the Virginia Loggers Association and the American Loggers Council. Next, we asked Governor McAuliffe to also help us with the Youth in Logging Careers Act (HR 1454 and S.655). Passage of these laws would allow owners of mechanized logging operations to legally allow their 16 and 17 year old children to work in business around the operations. Governor McAuliffe was a gracious host to our small delegation of logging business owners.

The leaders of Virginia Loggers Association who met with Governor McAuliffe are dedicated to the logging business and the industry. Collectively, they spoke with one voice on behalf of everyone! VLA Game Changers who met Governor McAuliffe and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry Cassidy Rasnick:

- Frank Myers – M. M. Wright, Inc., Gasburg, VA
- Chad Shelton – H. J. Shelton Logging, Inc., Chatham, VA
- Ron Jenkins – Executive Director VLA, Goochland, VA
- Vance Wright – Charles A. Wright Logging & Trucking, Inc., President VLA, Blackridge, VA
- Brandon Widener – Charles A. Wright Logging & Trucking, Inc., Bracey, VA
- C. K. Greene – Virginia Custom Thinning & Chipping, LLC, Dolphin, VA
- Cassidy Rasnick – Deputy Secretary Agriculture & Forestry, Richmond, VA
- Binky Tapscott – Tapscott Brothers Logging, Inc. and Forest Pro, Inc., Scottsville, VA
- Kirk Richardson – Richardson Logging, Inc., Fredericksburg, VA
- Terry McAuliffe – Governor of Virginia, Richmond, VA
- Buck Morris – Glen Morris & Sons, Inc., Unionville, VA
- Gary Robertson – Union Level Timber Harvesters, Inc., South Hill, VA

The logging industry is very active in Virginia and across our nation. Members of the Virginia Loggers Association and those in the 31 other state associations understand and value the importance of a unified voice. Loggers are doing a great job at keeping our forest products industry strong. Please reach out to your Congressional representative and ask for their help!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for recently joining THE VIRGINIA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

Putting our members first and proudly serving the interests of Virginia loggers!

ASHTON LEWIS LUMBER COMPANY
GATESVILLE, NC

T. M. EVERETTE CLAIM SERVICE, INC.
MECHANICSVILLE, VA

Please encourage someone to Join the Virginia Loggers Association!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER | Ron Jenkins



Even though 2017 started off with some lingering challenges from 2016, there are ways to meet these head – on! Patience and flexibility are important as many of our members have suggested!

Tips from members:

- Know your markets, sort your products and match up for the best value.
- Time your move from markets when the signs are pointing to increased risk. For example, one mill has reportedly stopped taking all ash due to the emerald ash borer, but the signs of this problem have been forth coming. Don't wait until the last minute to move from risky markets.

- Adjust crews to meet your other market demands when daily quotas on a primary product are limiting your production.
- Evaluate your crew efficiency and productivity and make wise changes.
- Build your crew's performance and confidence throughout the year, recognize your team with each success and keep them highly motivated
- When the markets are good, invest excess funds into future retirement, efficiency, and a rainy day fund.
- Stay in touch with trends, markets, regulations and legislation.

Membership in the Virginia Loggers Association (VLA) is also be a great resource. Our members have vast experience in all sorts of situations. VLA is also a member of the American Loggers Council which consists of 32 state associations from around the country with tremendous experiences.

VLA will hold its 15th annual conference on August 18 – 20 at The Virginia Tech Inn. This is a great opportunity for you to network with fellow loggers and representatives from every business type. Come, learn from others and share your ideas!

IMPORTANT 2017 DATES

May 14 Mother's Day
May 29 Memorial Day
June 18 Father's Day
June 24 VLA Board of Directors meeting
June 25 Last day to reserve lodging at discounted price for the VLA Annual Conference
July 4 Independence Day
July 27-29 ALC BODs Summer meeting
August 17-20 Virginia Loggers Association annual conference at The Inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center
Sept 12 Driver Appreciation Day at Kapstone
Sept 14-16 Mid Atlantic Logging Expo, Smithfield, NC
Sept 28-30 ALC Annual Meeting, Natches, MS

May							June							July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

TREE IMPROVEMENT: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO A LOGGER?

“It’s just another log on the truck, ton at the scale, or is it?” Why should I care about tree improvement- a log’s a log, right? Not really, let’s look at how genetics and tree improvement can put more, better, logs on your truck in less time, improving your productivity, scale tickets and bottom line. Interested now?

All trees are plants – very complex biological organisms that miraculously grow well in Virginia. The biggest, best quality trees in our forests are most likely the ones with the best genes. First, let’s look at the basics of genetics. A gene is located on a part of the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), coil-like strands of cells in all living things that are responsible for passing traits and characteristics from a parent to offspring, heredity. Think of a parent passing blue eyes or red hair or height to his/her children. Genes are responsible for this. A man, Gregor Mendel, from Austria figured this out in the 1800’s with garden plants (green peas) and started the science of genetics. Genetic improvement has been practiced for a long time, with farmers keeping the best young bulls, or the best boar or brood sows to improve the herd, or the biggest ears of corn for seed.

Our hardwoods are pretty much all naturally occurring and reproducing. We often cut the very best hardwood trees (“the grade”), which probably have the best genes. In our forest management plans, let’s make sure we think ahead to the future stand on that site. That can start as much as 10 or 15 years before a planned harvest, doing things to make sure seeds of the best trees (often oaks) are established in advance of a future harvest. This is done by cutting smaller, poorer trees initially, providing enough sunlight for acorns to sprout and grow into sturdy, chest high or higher seedlings, ready to take really take off when the main stand is cut (the method is called “shelterwood”). If you can’t start 10 years ago, another practical way to try and favor the better trees is to make sure that you also cut the poor trees (“runts of the litter” or culls) so that they don’t become the new forest, and so seeds or sprouts of the prize brood tree have a chance to thrive and grow more “grade-quality” trees in the future.

There’s more of a story to pine; the majority of pine stands in the state are the result of tree planting, mostly “improved” loblolly pine seedlings, from improved stock. Before we start, a clarification is needed. Our trees are the result of breeding and selecting of best traits, which is not the same as genetic modification. There’s been no modification of genes in our trees- No Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)!

Foresters started tree improvement, doing this with loblolly pine in the 1950s. Loblolly occurs naturally in the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont. It grows well enough but tends to be sort of crooked. Seedlings were grown in state or industry nurseries, but the seed was just collected off wild trees, often in the fall by rural folks in fresh-cut pine stands or from open grown trees with low limbs because a cone was a cone. Foresters and scientists started to wonder if we could do better. In the 1950s and through the ‘70s, foresters started roaming the woods looking for the best looking trees. They eyed trees that were straighter, bigger, with sturdy, yet moderate limbs that took off at near right angles (resulting in smaller limb knots). Now how were they going to get seeds from an 80-foot tree standing deep in the woods? Not by climbing and pulling a cone, but by shooting branch tips with a rifle. They were after the tips, not the cones. Again, learning from the fruit orchard growers, with a sharp knife, they grafted the branch tips (called a “scion”) onto a small tree that was rooted in a pot. That grafted tip or scion has all of the traits of the tree from which it was shot because its origin, genes, genetics are the same. These grafted trees were put into seed orchards, what we called the “first generation orchards,” and were tended and soon started bearing cones. Seeds from these cones were planted in the seedling nurseries and were used to reforest lands in Virginia, but there’s more.

Scientists had been studying genetics for many years, and started applying this science to trees. By the way, this has been a cooperative project with several states, universities, forest industry and landowners working together; in our region, it’s organized within the North Carolina State University Tree Improvement Program (formerly Cooperative). Each selected tree has a record and a number. Seed from



each selection was planted in test areas, and after several years was evaluated and ranked by rate of growth, straightness and limb structure. The best selections were kept in the orchard, and the poorer ones were removed or “rouged” from the orchards. The best seeds of the first generation were then crossed with each other – that is, the green pollen (male) was collected and with a syringe applied to the flowers (female) with a paper bag around the flower to keep out pollen from other nearby trees. Seed from these cones produced tree seedlings (progeny) that were again planted in test areas and were evaluated for their traits in a few years. The best crosses of the best selections were chosen to establish the second generation seed orchards. The process has continued, and the best of the first and the second generation were crossed, progeny were tested, resulting in our current third-cycle seed orchards, located at VDOF’s New Kent Forestry Center and the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest.

Whew, that was exhausting!

So exactly what does this mean? Today’s pines are straighter, grow faster, and have much better traits than the wild trees. Straighter trees fit better on a truck and provide more uniform loads. There’s a greater likelihood to market them as pine poles. They have less defects and deduction at the sawmill, less cull and less waste. Knots are smaller. They get taller faster and will fill the trailer standards sooner. Improved trees put on more volume (tons) per acre. More tons on each acre mean fewer and shorter skidder trips to fill the trailer – a more efficient operation. More tons per acre could make smaller-acreage tracts profitable, opening up more potential harvest sites. And, maybe most importantly, there will be more wood, and it will be ready to cut sooner. The numbers support this. On average, the seedlings that we are producing today grow 48 percent better than those of wild loblolly, and the best producing families grow an astounding 98 percent better. Think about it the next time the saw or tree cutter hits the tree – those little genes are making your business better!



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM VIRGINIA TECH FOREST OPERATIONS EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Scott Barrett, PhD,
Assistant Professor
and Extension Specialist,
Forest Operations

Coordinator for the VA
SHARP Logger Program

Department of Forest
Resources & Environ-
mental Conservation

FOREST HARVESTS ACROSS VIRGINIA

We recently completed a new Extension publication on the Regional Forest Harvesting Characteristics across Virginia. For this publication, we utilized the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) harvest notification data. This data covers harvests completed from July 2015 to July 2016 and looks at harvests that were 5 acres or larger. In a previous newsletter, I wrote about a project we completed using this same data to compare the harvests of members of the Virginia Loggers Association to the harvests of non-members. For this most recent publication, we did a more in depth comparison of harvests by region and also looked at logging business production levels by region.

During this one year period there were 4,539 harvests that were 5 acres or greater for a total of 230,775 acres. As you might expect there are some substantial differences in harvests by region. Average harvest size varied by region with an average size of 35 acres in the Mountains, 51 in the Piedmont, and 59 acres in the Coastal Plain.

There were nearly 1000 different operations / entities listed as the operator or logging business responsible for one or more harvests during this time period. However many of these are smaller operations that do not harvest a whole lot of acres throughout the year. We used this data to compare the production level of businesses by region. We looked at the top 10 logging businesses in terms of acres harvested in each region. In the Coastal Plain, the top 10 businesses represented only 4.5% of all businesses operating in the area, but harvested 27.9% of all acres harvested in the region. In the Piedmont, the top 10 businesses were only 1.9% of all businesses operating in the region, but harvested 27.2% of all acres harvested in the region. In the Mountains, the top 10 businesses represented 3.1% of all businesses, but harvested 17.5% of all acres harvested in the region.

Regardless of which region of Virginia that you look at, the larger businesses harvest a large proportion of all acres harvested in the region. We sorted the logging businesses based on the total number of acres they harvested, and then looked at the proportion of all acres harvested by the top third of logging businesses. The proportion of total acres harvested by the top third of businesses was relatively consistent across regions. In the Mountains, the top third harvested 75% of all acres, in the Piedmont it was 84% and in the Coastal Plain it was 78%. Another thing that this data shows is the difference in the average acres harvested per business in each region. In the Mountains, the average business harvested 83 acres, in the Piedmont it was 266 acres, and in the Coastal Plain it was 489.

All of this information and even more detail, including the types of harvest by region, is include in the publication we recently completed. The publication is available from the Virginia Cooperative Extension website at www.pubs.ext.vt.edu. Or you can always send me an email and I will send you a copy of it. While we don't include any business names in the publication, I thought that some of you might be interested in looking at this publication to see how your business compares to others it.

SECRETARY RECEIVES A TIGERCAT FELLER BUNCHER FOR THE CONFERENCE ROOM

Before Binky Tapscott and Basil Gooden met, the Secretariat of Agriculture & Forestry had great models of agricultural equipment and memorabilia on his conference room table. Now Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry can boast of adding the first piece of logging equipment to the mix!

Binky is a board member of the Virginia Loggers Association and owner of Tapscott Brothers Logging, Inc. and Forest Pro (a dealer of Tigercat harvesting equipment). Before attending the Governor's Agricultural Trade Conference, Binky and Executive Director Ron Jenkins stopped by Secretary Gooden's office to chat. Binky had requested Tigercat to engrave the Virginia Loggers Association logo on the model Feller – Buncher and delivered to Secretary Gooden for his display.

Thanks to Binky and Secretary Gooden, the logging business and the forest products industry are now visibly represented in the Secretariat's office for all visitors to view. We are very proud of our logging businesses, who make significant contributions to the industry and our society!



MEMBER PROFILE HIGHLIGHTED

BINNIE NASH
FROM SONNY
MERRYMAN, INC.



We are happy to profile Binford Nash, Jr. known as Binnie to his friends and business associates! Binnie and Sonny Merryman, Inc. have been faithful supporting members of VLA, the logging community and we are proud to highlight his life in the 2017 spring newsletter.

Binnie is a lifetime resident of Gladys, Virginia. He comes from a long lineage of timber harvesting lumber processing generations in his family.

A graduate of William Campbell High School, Binnie had an immediate love for the outdoors, forestry and logging. He spent five years in the Future Farmers of America and actively served in as an office holder. During his FFA membership, Binnie won the State, Regional and National Weyerhaeuser Forest Management Award in 1976.

Binnie feels very fortunate to have won these awards sponsored by Weyerhaeuser in 1976. "My goal was to go to VA Tech and get a degree in forestry, but the logging bug bit me and I did not pursue college." Following high school, Binnie hauled produce and timber with his Father, owner of Nash Trucking Company. He eventually started his own trucking business, BNJ, Inc. in 1983.

Although he loved owning his own business, he decided to leave that behind him and come to work in 1996 for Sonny Merryman, Inc. as the Trailer Service and Sales Manager. Binnie continues in this position today and values the logging industry and its business owners.



Binnie has been married to Susan for 33 years and together they have three beautiful daughters and two awesome grandchildren. He tells a funny story about his marriage that all of us can find humorous and loving. "I bought this 041AV Stihl saw from my grandfather who was a Stihl dealer in the fall of 1982... That was the last year I logged..I gave my wife an engagement ring Dec 24th and gave the saw to my father-in-law the week before. I teased my wife and told her I traded the saw for her....Well last year my farther in-law asked if I wanted the saw back, (he was 85) I told him yes, as long as he did not want Susan back... He said no, he did not want her back... So I got the saw back and with a little tlc it runs and cuts like it was brand new !!!!!"

Binnie is a lifetime member of Kedron Baptist Church, where he serves as Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and Brotherhood Director.

ELIMINATING HAZARDS KEEPS MOTORISTS SAFE

The traveling public faces many challenges due to highway construction, maintenance and permit activities. The nature of the off-road activities and subsequent access to public highways associated with timber harvesting activities create challenges related to the safety of the traveling public. It is critical that logging operations continually monitor highway conditions and have the necessary resources immediately available to eliminate any hazards created as a result of their activities.

Law enforcement officials are authorized to issue summonses for not keeping highways clear of mud and debris caused by timber harvesting operations or for failure to comply with permit requirements (see Code of Virginia §18.2-324). Additionally, the regulatory powers of the Commonwealth Transportation Board have the force and effect of law, and violators can be fined for non-compliance (see Code of Virginia §33.2-210).

Common violations include:

- Tracking mud and debris onto the roadway
- Failure to maintain a copy of the land use permit at job sites
- Failure to install traffic control devices in accordance with the Virginia Work Area Protection Manual
- Failure to restore all disturbed areas within highway right-of-way to pre-activity conditions.

All timber harvesters accessing onto VDOT highway right-of-way must provide sufficient surety to cover any damages to the right-of-way from the installation, use and removal of their temporary logging entrance. All disturbed areas within the highway right-of-way resulting from their logging activities must be restored to VDOT's satisfaction. Non-compliance may also result in the retention of all or a portion of the surety to cover the cost of restoring the right of way. VDOT also has the authority to revoke any land use permit to ensure the safety, use, or maintenance of the highway or in documented situations where the permittee has violated the terms of their permit. Repeated violations may result in a permanent denial of the ability to work within state maintained rights-of-way.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a responsibility to ensure the safety of the traveling public. Continued industry leadership and quality work by those involved in timber harvesting activities plays an integral role in achieving this goal and VDOT's mission to "Keep Virginia Moving."

Contact Technical Specialist Keith Goodrich at 804-786-0759 or Keith.Goodrich@vdot.virginia.org to find out more about obtaining a land use permit or for questions about timber harvesting activity laws and regulations on state-maintained highways.

Keith Goodrich is a technical specialist with the Office of Land Use at VDOT. He administers the issuance of district-wide land use permits, and provides regulatory interpretation and guidance relating to utility accommodations, land surveying operations and timber harvesting activities on state-maintained highways. Additional information on permitting requirements for temporary logging entrances can be found at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/bu-landUsePermits.asp>

First image: Mud and debris on a roadway from logging operations, a violation of Virginia law

Second image: Loaded logging transport vehicle tracking mud onto the roadway

Third image: Roadway pavement damage caused by logging operations

Fourth image: Non-compliant motorists advisory signage



Investing in our Youth through EDUCATION & TEAMWORK!

April 28 was a great gathering of folks who enjoy being "in the zone" with our Youth!

Gathering in a forest located in Albemarle County, Virginia, Tapscott Brothers Logging had partnered with the owner to harvest the tract creating "quail" habitat for the future. Loggers, Virginia Department of Forestry, Westrock and local pastors recently joined together to provide local youth a real life experience in the working forest.

Paul Stoneburner, Stephen Jasenak, Binky and Guke Tapscott, Eric Goodman, Ben Brewer, Adam Foster and Emily Neal shared information from their vast knowledge of working forests, paper making, wildlife, and forest aquatics. Pastor Ben, Principal Calvary Christian School, arranged the tour for his youth. Joining them also were many teachers and parents.

Paper making was even demonstrated to the youth showing a real life lesson to every youth who used paper in their school work. Eric Goodman, Westrock, showed youth how to make paper the "old fashion way" with the help of Sloane Tapscott!!

We watched in awe as each professional shared their unique knowledge on important aspects of life in the forest. All of the presenters strongly valued our working forests and professionals who earn their livelihood from them. They tied all aspects together concluding that a properly harvested forest can create the landowner's objectives and leave a great place for a future forest. Throughout the day each connected working forests to riparian zones that protect flowing creeks, and healthy clean water to our faucets.



Highly mechanized forest harvesting and even the latest in drone technology were demonstrated on the tour.

This was an awesome learning experience for everyone! Our youth are the leaders of the future and Virginia Loggers Association is proud to be part of an education activity that helps our youth to connect working forests to their life! Today we showed how forests provide products for humans, clean water and air and wildlife habitat, all benefits for a healthy and happier society. Tomorrow these young persons will be making decisions that impact our lives.

Adam Foster, Senior Pastor of Mizpah Christian Church also got into the act using his special skills and knowledge in aquatic life. Adam showed students the many interesting forms of life in a creek.

Thanks to concerned, dedicated people who care, i.e., loggers, forest products industry, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Loggers Association, pastors, parents and teachers, these young persons are a little more informed and prepared to understand the values and benefits of our working forests!



TAX CORNER

By Dale Campbell, CPA

Dale Campbell is a Certified Public Accountant for Thomas and Thomas, CPAs. If you have any questions, you may reach him at 804-798-9408.

SHOULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO A ROTH IRA FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

If your child or grandchild is working, you may want to consider putting some money into a Roth IRA for them. The growth on a Roth IRA is tax free at retirement age, and you could be starting a nice retirement nest egg for them.

The limits on what can be contributed is \$5,500 per year or the amount of wages earned for the year, whichever is lower.

Only one \$5,500 contribution at age 16 would grow to \$52,000 by age 62 at 5% compounded annual growth.

Imagine if you were able to contribute \$5,500 each year, and teach them the power of saving.

DO PAYMENTS FOR SUMMER CAMPS QUALIFY FOR A TAX CREDIT?

Possibly...

As you may know, there is a dependent care credit in place for working parents. If your child is under age 13, and day care is incurred so you (and your spouse, if married) can work, you may qualify for this credit.

So the real question is: Are summer camps considered "dependent care" for purposes of this credit? The answer is: Yes, they are. This would include math, sports, theater camps or other special day camps.

Any summer school/tutoring programs would not work for purposes of the credit, though. These are considered to be education and not day care.

SAFETY SPOT: DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC

EVERY 21 MINUTES: A road departure fatality occurs.

-The US Federal Highway Administration

Each day across America millions of truck drivers haul products to support our economy. Trucking plays a huge role in the wood products industry from logs to finished furniture. Trucking is the way our industry moves its products to market. Once the truck leaves the logging job, warehouse, plant or mill, drivers are on their own and away from direct supervision. There is a huge amount of responsibility and liability based upon the driver's decisions and actions.

Recently a number of truck wrecks, some proving fatal, have occurred. Each driver that was killed was a family member that did not go home at the end of the workday. The most common causes of accidents involve driver distractions such as talking on a cell phone or CB radio, becoming sleepy from long hauls, and boredom.

In order to reduce the number of road departure fatalities, we recommend that you hold regularly scheduled safety meetings to help keep safety awareness at a high level. Some topics include:

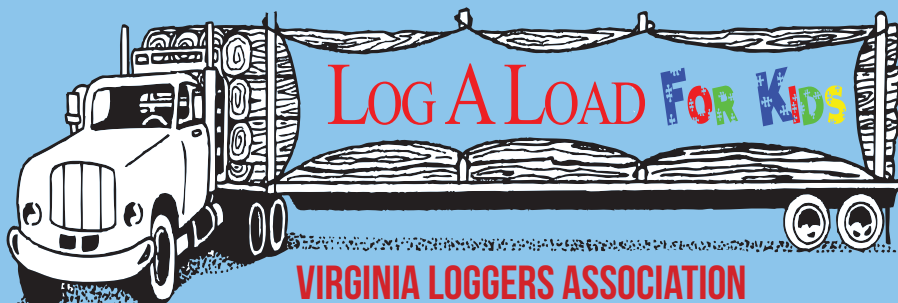
- Make sure all medical requirements are met for drivers with commercial licenses.
- Do a thorough pre-trip inspection of the truck and trailer.
- Has scheduled maintenance been completed?
- Are the brakes and tires serviceable?
- Check the load often. Tighten binders and chains frequently.
- Know your load. A double bunk load of cut logs pulls and handles differently than a load of tree-length wood. Pallets and finished furniture handle differently then wet or dried packs of lumber or chips.
- Use your seat belt.

- Drive alert and avoid distractions - do not use cell phones while driving.
- Constantly scan your mirrors. Be aware of blind spots.
- Adjust your speed for the driving conditions you encounter.
- Do not do anything that can impair judgment before or during your trips.
- Be aware of following distances, your truck doesn't stop on a dime.

Accidents can be prevented. Lowering risk through safety awareness reduces the chance of an accident. Taking the time to hold safety briefings with your trucking employees will demonstrate your concern for them. Let's get everyone home safe each day. Drive safely - make safe driving a lifelong habit!

John J. Lemire (JJ)
Director, Loss Control
Forestry Mutual Insurance Company
1-800-849-7788 | 919-770-1600(c)

LOG-A-LOAD FOR KIDS



Support your state's Log-A-Load for Kids Campaign! To find your state's Log-A-Load organization and contact person, visit www.logaload.org/pages/Participating_Hospitals.html



NIKKI ROBERTSON
State Chairman
Log-A-Load Foundation
9318 W. Oak River Drive
South Chesterfield, VA 23803
804-586-5413



Mike Pickrel
Owner/Sales

716 Main Street
Altavista, VA 24517

Ph: (434) 369 • 6555
Fax: (434) 369 • 7516

Gasburg Land and Timber Company, Inc.



Joey Jones

*Over 50 years of experience
working for you!*

Chipper Available
6894 Christanna Highway
Gasburg, VA 23857
Business: (434) 577-2101
Fax: (434) 577-2362

MEMBERS

PLATINUM

Carter Machinery
Dominion Generation
Forest Pro Inc.
Forestry Mutual Insurance
International Paper
James River Equipment
Kapstone Kraft Paper Corp.
Trelan Southeast
Turman Sawmill, Inc.
Virginia Custom Thinning & Chipping, LLC
WestRock

GOLD

Ashton Lewis Lumber Company	Mebane Shrubbery Markets, Inc.
B. & C. Truck Sales, Inc.	Northwest Hardwoods
BITCO	NOVEC
Blue Ridge Lumber Caruso, Inc.	Pinnacle Trailers Inc.
Enviva, LP	Richards Insurance
Gaines & Critzer, Inc.	Rock Wood Products, Inc.
Georgia-Pacific Corp.	Setliff & Holland (Attorneys)
Grief Packaging, LLC	T. M. Everette Claim Service, Inc.
Independent Lumber Co, Inc.	

SILVER

Bullock Brothers Equipment Co., Inc.
Carl Wright's Garage
Colonial Farm Credit
Commonwealth Trailer Rentals, Inc.
Creedle, Jones & Alga PC
Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Department of Forestry
First Citizens Bank
FOROP
Gasburg Land & Timber Co., Inc.
Honeyville Metal, Inc.
Huber Engineered Woods LLC
Jewell Machinery
J. K. Enterprise Landscape Supply, Inc.
Key Truck & Equipment
Mid-Atlantic Stihl, Inc.
NAPA Auto Parts of Altavista
Parker Oil Company
Piedmont Welding Service LLC.
Riemler Parts
River Ridge Forest Products, Inc.
RotoChopper, Inc.
Sexton Forest Products
Sonny Merryman, Inc.
South Rivers Forestry Consultants, LLC.
SVE Portable Roadway Systems, Inc.
Thomas Tires, Inc.
Tri-State Auction
Two Oaks Enterprises, Inc.
Virginia Tech SHARP Logger Program
W. R. Deacon & Sons Timber, Inc.
Watts Auction Realty Appraisals, Inc.
Woodway Stone Company

SUPPORTING



www.teamsafetrucking.com



**PULLING TOGETHER
WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE**

WHO WE ARE

TEAM Safe Trucking (TST) is a broad-based, non-profit 501(c)3 volunteer group committed to elevating the safety level and performance of the American forest industry's challenging transportation sector.

WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT

- ✓ Provide a forum where key integral aspects of the forest products industry—production, consumption, insurance, associations and other advocates—work together to help drive the log/chip trucking sector to a more accountable and more professional level.
- ✓ Create a free, comprehensive safety education (training) template for log/chip truck drivers.
- ✓ Create a web site loaded with tools to advance the strength and standing of log/chip trucking. Items include the driver training template; tips for recruiting and retaining drivers; resources to help owners move from reactive to proactive fleet management; suggestions for improving trucking efficiency; and ideas for enhancing the sector's public image.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Trucks supply the great majority of the logs and wood fiber consumed by the nation's forest products plants. It's imperative that they keep rolling—but in a safer, more businesslike, more accountable manner. Buy in to what TST is trying to accomplish and spread the word. Support the work of this very important initiative. Join the TEAM today and make a tax-deductible donation. Visit teamsafetrucking.com or call 877-399-7757.

TEAM Safe Trucking, a volunteer alliance committed to elevating the safety, performance, and professional level of the forest industry's transportation sector, is moving forward with its ambitious program. The group consists of key integral facets of the forest products industry: production (logging), consumption, insurance, associations and other advocates.

TST's revamped web site—teamsafetrucking.com—was launched in early March.

Ultimately, it will be loaded with tools to help advance the strength and standing of log/chip trucking. Resources will include tips for recruiting and retaining drivers; items to help owners move from reactive to proactive fleet management; suggestions for improving trucking efficiency; and ideas for enhancing the sector's public image.

The final draft of TST's comprehensive driver training module is nearing completion and soon will be available on the web site. According to TST officials, the intent is for this module to be used at the state level, as it can easily be modified to incorporate state-specific criteria.

The group now has restructured and refocused key committees, has new leadership, and its 501(c)3 non-profit status has been approved by the IRS, meaning that financial donations are tax deductible.

"More and more organizations are participating in TST and are 'buying in' to what TST is committed to achieve," says Jeremiah O'Donovan, the group's new president. "We're on track to make important strides this year and invite additional participation."

Donations to TEAM Safe Trucking, Inc. are welcomed and should be mailed to TST treasurer Joanne Reese at P.O. Box 785, Henderson, NC 27536.

JOIN US AT OUR 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ON AUGUST 17 – 20, 2017 AT THE INN AT VIRGINIA TECH AND SKELTON CONFERENCE!

The Inn at Blacksburg awaits you!

We invite you to enjoy the location as you meet other loggers and business people in the forest products industry.

Receive the most current information affecting our industry from great speakers who are leaders in their field.

Great food, great fellowship and great info!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Thursday

- Board of Directors meet with Board of Forestry
- Registration and Exhibitors Set Up in Evening

Friday

- Registration and Exhibitors Set Up in the Lobby in the Morning
- Program Begins at 1pm
- Legislative and Members' reception begins at 6pm on The Great Lawn (Music, food and fellowship)

Saturday

- Breakfast, Registration and Program in the Morning **
- E. K. Pittman Safety Logger of the Year Award Presented by Forestry Mutual Insurance
- SHARP Logger Required Training Offered Saturday afternoon (Optional)
- Banquet and Entertainment in the Evening (Great food, dancing and beverages)

Sunday - Check Out and Remove Exhibits

SPEAKERS

- Scott Barrett, *Extension Specialist Forest Operations & SHARP Logger Program Coordinator*
- Craig Feister, *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration*
- Basil Gooden, *Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry*
- D. K. Knight, *Executive Editor and Co-Publisher of Southern Loggin' Times & Timber Harvesting*
- Bettina Ring, *Virginia State Forester*
- Peter Stewart, *Forest2Market Economist*
- Paul Winestorfer, *Dean College of Natural Resources & Environment*
- And many more!

**** Ladies!** Would you like to do one of the following on Saturday morning (no charge)?

- ___ Painting
- ___ Make & Take Holiday Item
- ___ Another suggestion?

Everyone! Would you like to do one of the following on Friday morning or Saturday afternoon, depending upon availability (some charges may apply)?

- ___ Rafting
- ___ Hiking
- ___ Touring sports & other facilities at VT

If interested send your name, email and preferences to Nannette Jenkins at jenkinsgzj@aol.com

Lodging – The Inn at Virginia Tech is now taking reservations for lodging.

Call 540-231-8000 and ask for the 15th Annual Virginia Loggers Association Meeting!

Or, book your lodging online at: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/75607?groupID=1743838&hotelID=75607#/guestsandrooms>



Gaines & Critzer, Ltd.

Specialized insurance coverage for:



- Logging Equipment – Exclusive program
- Workers' Compensation
(representing numerous companies,
including Forestry Mutual)
- General Liability
- Commercial Auto
- Sawmill/Planing
Mill Property
- Commercial Umbrella
- Contract Truckers


www.gainescritzer.com

P.O. Box 35742
Richmond, VA 23235

(804) 330-8181
(804) 330-2560 Fax

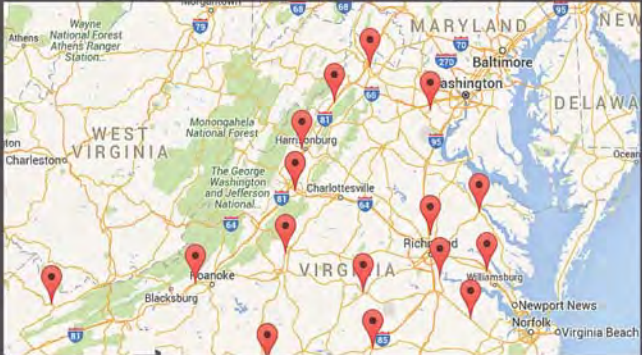




IT'S A LONG ROAD AHEAD We Can Help.

Let's face it, no matter how good your machines are, you're going to need parts. From your first oil change to a rebuild, James River Equipment offers complete solutions throughout the entire life of your machine.



With 17 locations in Virginia and over 100 service vehicles, we have what it takes to keep our customers up and running.

www.jamesriverequipment.com



AN EXPERIENCE-DRIVEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FOREST INDUSTRY

*We understand your business.
We deliver quality service.
We would love to serve you.*

FM: Workers' compensation specialist serving logging, sawmill and wood products manufacturing businesses since 1971.

FM: Loss control, specialized training, other value-added services

FM: Workers' Comp Program endorsed by:

- ◆ NC Assn. of Professional Loggers
- ◆ NC Forestry Assn.
- ◆ Tennessee Forestry Assn.
- ◆ Virginia Loggers Assn.
- ◆ SC Timber Producers Assn.



Forestry Insurance Specialists:

Eddie Campbell—919-770-6132
Jimmie Locklear—910-733-3300
Nick Carter—803-669-1003
Chris Huff—919-810-9485

1600 Glenwood Ave. ♦ Raleigh NC 2761
www.forestrymutual.com
Toll-free: 800-849-7788

Proudly serving NC, SC, VA, TN & GA



Dorsey Chip Van Spring Inventory Event

STARTING AT \$29,900 INCLUDING FET



Big John Log Trailers also in stock.



**Sonny
Merryman INC.**

CENTRAL VIRGINIA'S STOCKING DEALER, CONTACT US TODAY
800.533.1006 | SONNYTRAILERS.COM



Attention Loggers!

At Two Oaks Enterprises, Inc., our sincere interest is in your company's success! You work so hard to make a profit! Here at Two Oaks, (Formerly Anchor Sales, Inc.), we try hard to help you save your equipment, time and money. We specialize in industrial grade equipment and soap sales. *Here's what we offer: HOT-WATER pressure washers, air compressors and top-of-the line soaps to meet all your cleaning, maintenance, salt-neutralizing and degreasing needs.*

My name is Larry Rakes, and I'm the owner of Two Oaks Enterprises, Inc. With over 40 years of sales & service experience, it's always been my intention to establish a reputation of quality over the entire state of Virginia, as well as her border states. One of my goals for publishing this article in Virginia Loggers Association is to communicate the dire necessity and economic benefits of maintaining clean, salt-free equipment. Trucks, radiators, and belly pans kept clean and chemical free help reduce fire risk by astronomical proportions. Not only that, but there are insurance incentives, increased production and higher trade-in values recognized by this practice. And of course, well-kept, clean equipment and shiny trucks contribute to a consistent representation of professionalism. They help deter road checks too, boost morale in employees, and build their confidence in their employer.

As a member of Virginia Loggers Association, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation for Ron Jenkins and the opportunity to support this upstanding organization.

To anyone interested in joining the Virginia Loggers Association, I have some applications, or you can contact Ron Jenkins at 804.677.4290. If you choose to buy a self-contained hot-water unit from me or another vendor, be sure to look for quality in the equipment and dependability from a seller. You need a supplier that will service their product line. Remember, you work hard for your success, your success equates to our success. I don't just sell a cleaning system, but quality products and service. A hot-water unit from Two Oaks Enterprises, Inc. can be purchased by cash, check, credit card or a tax-deductible lease w/a dollar buy-out option. If you mention this Virginia Logger's Association article during the purchase of a hot-water unit or air compressor, Larry will donate \$100.00 to Log a Load for Kids. Just ask, and he'll write a check endorsed to Log a Load for Kids and give it to the buyer at the time of sale.

TWO OAKS ENTERPRISES, INC.
2160 Southfork Road
Appomattox, VA 24522
Give me a call anytime at 434.944.1253.

BUS: (434) 447-3146
FAX: (434) 447-2646



P.O. Box 120
South Hill, VA 23970



Carter Machinery Company
855.812.2447
cartermachinery.com

Carter



**LET'S GET
TO WORK.®**



**We're a member-owned lender providing
financing since 1916:**

- Operating capital
- Timber land acquisition
- Sawmill equipment
- Harvesting equipment
- Hauling equipment
- And much more!



FARM CREDIT
www.farmcredit.com

800-919-FARM
Western Virginia and West Virginia
804-746-1252
Eastern Virginia and Maryland



Virginia 
Custom Thinning & Chipping, LLC

Quality Logging Done Right

4356 Planters Rd - Dolphin, VA 23843

C.K. Greene Owner

Phone 804-586-7198

Fax 434-848-3086

vactllc@wildblue.net

www.virginiacustomthinning.com

PINNACLE

SALES • PARTS • SERVICE
We Know Trailers



Innovative Live Floor
Chip Trailers

Two locations
to better serve
you:

5510 Hwy 421N
Wilmington, NC
&
150 Best Drive
Spartanburg, SC



866-657-8034



<https://www.instagram.com/pinnacletrailers/>



We buy used trailers!

www.pinnacletrailers.com

WE ♥ OUR
CUSTOMERS



McLendon Plantation
Log Trailers



Innovative Closed Top
Chip Trailers



Talbert 55 Ton Hydraulic
Detachable Lowboy Trailers

Full Service Trailer
Repair, Parts, &
Hydraulics
Inventory of
NEW and USED
Trailers changes
daily.



BITCO INSURANCE COMPANIES

What **YOU** do is what
WE protect.

BITCO has the right solutions
to manage your risk.

For 100 years, we've been providing the insurance protection
and responsive services needed for forestry-related risks.

From workers compensation and general liability to auto and property
coverage, you get affordable prices along with safety and security
from a financially secure company. Best of all, you'll experience service
from people who know and care about your business.



www.BITCO.com



Insurance contracts are underwritten and issued by one or more
of the following: BITCO General Insurance Corporation and BITCO
National Insurance Company, rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best,
A2 Stable by Moody's, and A+ Stable by Standard and Poor's

BITCO Charlotte Branch Office

PO Box 474630
Charlotte, NC 28277-2747
Toll Free: 800-642-2507



OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE GROUP

Ron Jenkins *Executive Director*
Virginia Loggers Association
5251 Tavern Lane
Goochland, Virginia 23063



804-677-4290

info@valoggers.org

www.valoggers.org

This newsletter is published to keep members and friends of the Virginia Loggers Association informed.



Run By Loggers...For Loggers

Stop by your local Forest Pro
and let us help you with your everyday forestry needs.
Call us for parts on Tigercat, Barko, CSI, Bandit machines.
We offer great pricing and customer service!

Scottsville

8473 West river Rd
Scottsville, Va 24590

434-286-4157

Richmond

1440 Air Park Rd
Ashland, VA 23055

804-337-2942



Forest Pro Inc. Helping to Keep VA Loggers Logging