



October 2020 *Issue*

VA Loggers Association

News & Updates

FRA LOGGERS OF THE YEAR BROTHERS BINKY & GUKE TAPSCOTT



PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER BUCK MORRIS

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for recently joining
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Special thanks to Forestry Mutual and VLA Members for Bringing our New members!

Recruitment supports the heart & soul of our future!
Bring a new member today!

IMPORTANT 2020 DATES

NOV 3 Election Day
NOV 11 Veteran's Day
NOV 26 Thanksgiving Day
DEC 24 Christmas Eve
DEC 25 Christmas Day
DEC 31 New Year's Eve

2021 DATES

JAN 1, 2021 New Year's Day
JAN 13 Virginia General Assembly begins
APR 30 & MAY 1 Mid - Atlantic Logging Expo
MAY 21-22 Richmond Logging Expo
AUG 5-8 VLA Annual Conference

November						
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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December						
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31						

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



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The Virginia Loggers Association proudly endorses Forestry Mutual Insurance as the preferred provider of Virginia worker's compensation insurance. Chris Huff: chuff@forestrymutual.com 919-810-9485

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Virginia Custom Thinning & Chipping, LLC
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BITCO	Isle of Wight Forest Products
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Columbia Forest Products, Inc.	Morgan Lumber Company, Inc.
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SILVER

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VLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER | Frank Myers

On August 22, 2020 I assumed the position as President of the Virginia Loggers Association. I gladly accepted this opportunity with honor and pride, and deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve the people in this great industry.

I also assumed this responsibility with humility because of the great VLA Presidents I follow who made great strides for our industry and built a strong foundation for you and me. As a long - time board member, I have witnessed firsthand the growth of our professional Voice so desperately needed by Virginia's loggers. Past Presidents Danny Goodbar, Ronnie Wright, Judd Smith, and Vance Wright all have been instrumental in helping the VLA gain the respect that we have today. These strong past leaders along with help from our Executive Directors, members' activism, and fellow partners in forestry and agriculture, have been immensely beneficial for Virginia's loggers.

As We move forward, VLA will face many challenges, but they will have to wait for another article. I look forward to writing about our challenges and opportunities and encouraging your involvement to keep us moving forward.

2020 has been a year most of us would like to forget! The pandemic has affected all of us, from the loss of loved ones to economic hardships. As we close in on the end of the 2020 elections are fast approaching for Congress and the Presidency. These elections are as important as any previous in America.

I encourage each of you to vote and ask those close to you to do so as well. It is your constitutional right to vote and, in this year's elections, all votes will be important. Do not ever think your vote does not make a difference because it does on all levels of government. From your local board of supervisors, state, and federal offices, to the President of the United States, they all have the potential to change our business and our way of life.

Take the remaining time between now and the election to study the candidates. Think about what they are saying, what they have done, and how it will affect your business. Will the loss of a biomass market impact your business? Is there a place for biomass in America's energy policy? Can you afford more taxes on your business? Do you feel the loss of stumpage to solar fields will eventually impact your timber supply? How have increased regulations affected your bottom line? Will our candidates for office push for more regulations that add financial and administrative burdens to your business?

Next, think about your family. What kind of health insurance do you need? How safe do you feel today? Do you support law enforcement and our judicial system? We have all seen the destruction in some of the cities across America and the talk of defunding the police. If our police are defunded will your loved ones be safe? Now add those concerns with the pressure on the second amendment of the constitution, will we be able to protect our family, business, and the American way of life? These are serious matters before us this year at our election polls. I encourage you to learn about our candidates and vote!

Our youth are the leaders of tomorrow. How will our children in rural areas be competitive with urban youth when you cannot get internet at your house? Will our children in the rural areas have the same opportunities as other children?

Your list of questions may be completely different from mine and each of you should vote for the candidate that you believe will deliver the best results. Research their views and compare them to yours regardless of their party.

We need our elected representatives to protect the rights of free enterprise, security, family owned businesses, and support a strong economy in the U.S. So, please, make the best of the time remaining to learn about the candidates and choose to VOTE on November 3rd.

-Frank Myers
President, VLA



This is why I vote!

TAPSCOTT BROTHERS LOGGING, INC: FRA'S 2020 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING LOGGER

On August 22, the Forest Resources Association (FRA) and STIHL Incorporated honored Tapscott Brothers Logging of Scottsville, Virginia, as FRA's 2020 National Outstanding Logger. (Earlier this year, the Tapscotts won FRA's Southeastern Region Outstanding Logger Award and then were selected by a national panel of judges as the U.S. winner from among FRA's six regional winners.)

Charles "Binky" Tapscott and Troy "Guke" Tapscott started logging with their father, Harvey, in the 1980s, when they were only in their late teens. They have steadily grown the operation into the current business that now operates five logging crews and one chipping crew, numerous company-owned and contract trucks, and a large inventory of mostly-in-house-built log and chip trailers. The Tapscotts' multi-faceted harvesting operations deliver wood to numerous mills throughout Virginia and beyond. Additionally, the Tapscotts' outstanding ability to maintain logging equipment led them to form their own logging equipment dealership, Forest Pro, affiliated primarily with the Tigercat brand. Forest Pro now has three locations across central Virginia.

The Tapscotts have a long history of innovating. They were one of the first logging contractors in Virginia to employ a farm tractor with a "street sweeper" brush and a

water truck to clean the roads if their truckers happened to track any mud onto a public roadway. Binky and Guke have always been mechanically gifted, building their own gate delimiters and fabricating their own log trailers. Binky created his own version of a chain flail delimeter and patented a reversible slasher saw. They also created their own gigantic clambunk trailer for long hauls from the woods to the log deck and are now experimenting with a drone for monitoring the progress of their crews' forest harvesting and BMP work.

The Tapscotts are known across Virginia for their ability to conduct all types of timber harvests, and they receive high praise from the landowners whose timber they harvest. Proud of their work, Binky and his team have often cooperated with the Virginia Department of Forestry and local schools to allow students and others to observe their harvesting operation and learn more about logging and forestry.

The Tapscotts became big supporters of the Log A Load for Kids program soon after it first started in Virginia. Additionally, Binky Tapscott has been a longtime member of the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) and the Virginia Loggers Association (VLA), and he serves on the VLA Board of Directors. Each year, he and other

Photo: Charles ("Binky") Tapscott (center, with "U.S. map" walnut wood plaque) and Troy ("Guke") Tapscott (center right, with SE Region cherry-wood crosscut saw plaque), owners of Tapscott Brothers Logging, Inc. and Forest Pro, Inc., winners of FRA's 2020 National Outstanding Logger Award.

Pictured from left to right: Rick Meyer (FRA Regional Manager), Ron Jenkins (VLA Executive Director), Binky Tapscott, Guke Tapscott, Corey Connors (VFA Executive Director).



forest industry members visit Virginia's legislators and educate them on important forest issues in Virginia and the nation. Binky and his wife have made numerous visits to Washington, DC, with the VLA as part of the American Loggers Council's annual legislative Fly-Ins.

The Tapscotts maintain close contact with their insurance carriers and provide regular safety training and safety meetings for all their woods and trucking employees. All their trucks are equipped with GPS and some with dash cams. They contract with a safety consultant to provide additional safety training and participate in a random drug-testing program for all employees.

Impressively, the Tapscotts have won FRA regional Outstanding Logger Awards three times now, spanning three decades: In the Appalachian Region in 1992 and in FRA's Southeastern Region in 1998 and 2020.

The FRA 2020 National Outstanding Logger Award prizes—a large, black walnut wooden award plaque from FRA and a \$1,000 check provided by STIHL—were presented to Binky and Guke by FRA Appalachian Region Manager Rick Meyer at the luncheon of the Virginia Loggers Association Board meeting in Columbia,

VA on August 22. VLA and VFA jointly submitted the Tapscotts' nomination for the FRA award program.

FRA's Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to raise the visibility of professional logging contractors and to encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners. FRA annually awards six Regional Awards (one from each of FRA's geographic regions in the U.S.) and one National Outstanding Logger Award. STIHL Incorporated has served as the sponsor of FRA's Regional and National Outstanding Logger Awards for over thirty years.

The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.



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DON'T TAKE VOTING FOR GRANTED

David Abbott, Managing Editor, Southern Loggin' Times



What a year! Since school started back four weeks ago, I've been working from home, pulling double duty as the editor of Southern Loggin' Times while also juggling my new career as a 5th grade math teacher and 7th grade civics teacher. See, our county opted to ease into the first nine weeks of the 2020-21 school year with a staggered sched-

ule in which a third of students do virtual learning from home full-time, while the remaining two thirds alternate days at home and at school—half are physically in school two days while the other half does virtual, then they swap for two days, with a day in between for cleaning with no students in the school. This is all due to the coronavirus, of course. Since my wife is a teacher in one school and our four kids are split among three other schools, in two different districts, the result has been that my wife is at the school four days a week while I have either two or four kids at home with me nearly every day.

It's not as bad as it sounds. I'm able to juggle it with my own workload—I was able to fit in a trip to the woods the week before school started to see several loggers, and I've been able to go to the office on the days when my wife is home or on weekends. Most of what I need to do—the actual writing of articles—I can do from my home office. I just had to set up four extra desks, with four extra laptops, and supervise to make sure each kid is doing what they're supposed to be doing when they're supposed to be doing it. For the most part, they do it without my help; they do their thing and I do mine. Our 9th and 8th graders have been able to work almost entirely independently. The 5th grader struggles, especially with math, while the 7th grader can handle most everything himself, except for civics, where he needs a little help. Thus I have essentially become a math and civics tutor this fall, often working with one or the other of them for several hours in afternoons and evenings.

Some parents complain, but I don't mind. Actually, I've rather enjoyed helping them with their studies. I'm pretty much a nerd that way...I like math and civics, and I like being so closely involved with helping them learn. In fact, the experience of teaching my 12-year-old son about the structure, history and philosophy of the Constitution has served as a reminder to me personally about how much we have to appreciate in this country, and reinforces to me what a shame it is that so many of us take these gifts for granted.

It's far from perfect, but our justifiably lauded Founders designed our system in recognition of its inevitable limitations; that's why it has measures built in to keep the various factions of government and media in check and in balance with one another. It's a constant give and take struggle, it's messy and frustrating, but it was meant to be, to keep any one group from gaining total control. I explained to my son the division and sharing of powers among the branches thusly: it's like rock/paper/scissors, I told him; each one can stop, or be stopped by, the others.

But the most beautiful and remarkable thing is: we do get a say in it. We can voice our opinions, formally and informally, and engage in public discourse about policy. Not everyone everywhere has always had that right. We can protest (peacefully), and we can openly criticize our own government, without fear of legal repercussion, imprisonment, or execution. You know that wasn't the case in most places historically, and it's not the case in a lot of places now (try to speak against Putin in Russia or the little rocket man in North Korea and see what happens). When our leaders break the law, they can be exposed, arrested and imprisoned (heck, half of Alabama's leaders have been indicted or imprisoned, seems like). That's something that also wouldn't be the case under despots and tyrants, who generally figure if they do it or say it, then it becomes legal, and no one can tell them no. Here, we can meet with our representatives, we can get involved in the process, we can even run for and serve in office ourselves, thereby taking a direct role in leading and shaping public policy. And at the most basic level, we can vote. Don't like the government? Throw the bums out; give some new bums a try. Our leaders are accountable to us, ultimately.

Loggers, and those of us connected with your wonderful industry, have seen this in action. We've been to Congress, and to state legislatures, and had input on public policies that impact your businesses directly. We've worked to secure for loggers a share of the COVID relief funds from Congress. Heck, we saw a logging representative speak at the Republican National Convention. We've elected loggers to state legislatures (in Maine and Georgia that I know of, and I'm sure elsewhere as well). That's all civics in action, affecting us in the real world in tangible ways.

Now, I know you may not be aware of this, because it's not something people talk about much on TV news or social media, but, (sarcasm alert), there's actually an election going on this year. Who knew, right? But it's true. In November we collectively get to vote on the President, a third of the Senate, all of the House of Representatives and a number of state and local offices. I've voted in every election since I turned 18 in 1996

Continued on page __

(I voted for Bob Dole that year, but Bill Clinton won). My wife actually just registered and voted for the very first time in her life this summer, in a Republican primary runoff here in Alabama (former Auburn University head football coach Tommy Tuberville against former U.S. Senator and Attorney General Jeff Sessions). I might have been a good influence but I didn't pressure her to do that; she just decided on her own she was ready to take part in the system. I've seen a lot of other people say they're voting for the first time this year, people who have never paid attention to or cared at all about politics now say they see what's going on and they want to do their part.

I think that's great. Even if I don't agree with your views, even if I think you're ignorant or foolish (none of you, of course, but some other people out there, maybe). Even then, I'd want you to vote. Every American citizen should get informed and get out and vote. It's our God-given, constitutionally-protected right, and, in my view, a sacred responsibility, one people have literally fought and died to give us.

Now there is one thing I know that some of the ones just now starting to pay attention may not know. Every two and four years, the pundits and propagandists on both sides say the same thing: this is the most important election of our lifetime. If our side doesn't win, America will be lost forever. Now on the one hand, that's hyperbole, an exaggeration or over dramatization designed to motivate people to show up at the polls. The dire warnings and lofty promises either way tend not to really come true. Remember, campaigning is a sales pitch; governing is a different matter. But at the same time, from another perspective, despite their hyperbolic rhetoric, the partisan cheerleaders are also always right: every election is the most important election yet, because it's the one happening now, and the future always depends on the choices we make today, just as the present grew from the choices we made in the past. It's a never-ending story, and this right now is our time to write part of it.

I wouldn't dare try to tell you who to vote for...I trust each and every person reading this can figure that out for yourselves. But I do hope every one of you will get out and vote for whomever you honestly believe is the right person for each job. Even if you choose the wrong candidate, as someone else might reckon it, the choice to vote is always the right choice. So please, like I'm teaching my son, let's all do our civic duty: vote.



SAFETY AWARENESS

FMIC - JENNY CLAWSON

Forestry Mutual strives to keep our Insureds educated on new and improved ways of maintaining a safe workplace. Safety training and protective equipment are just some of the examples of the effort put into reducing workplace accidents. Unfortunately, these efforts do not significantly reduce those accidents in the long run, at least not by themselves. When coupled with Safety Awareness, most workplace accidents can be avoided. Safety Awareness essentially helps employees become focused and more aware of safety in the workplace. No employee ever plans on having an accident, but when safety is not associated with their work, then human error, employee carelessness, and/or negligence steps in and creates the potential for an accident. Keeping safety at the forefront of all tasks is the key to the success of Safety Awareness.

Safety awareness can almost eliminate all of an Insured's accident-related costs as well. Accidents affect a workplace on a multitude of levels, from worrying about the well-being of the employee, worrying about the cost of the accident and worrying about how to prevent a further accident in the future. Since safety awareness has the potential to reduce the number of accidents an employer experiences, that means that it also reduces the Direct and Indirect costs that an accident incurs. The diagram below shows the difference between the Direct and Indirect costs that an employer experiences when an accident happens. We want to help our Insureds avoid this iceberg by promoting Safety Awareness in their workplace.



- Medical expenses (doctor visits, physical therapy, medicine, etc.)
- Workers compensation payouts
- Replacement of machinery, equipment and buildings
-
- Reduced productivity
- Accident investigation
- Administrative costs
- Lost time by supervisor
- Costs of training replacement worker
- Overtime
- Legal fees
- Equipment repair
- Negative publicity
- Damage to customer relations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Ron Jenkins

VLA Holds First In-Person Board of Directors' Meeting Since January 2020

After six months and two virtual meetings later, VLA Board of Directors held its first in-person Board of Directors' meeting on August 22, 2020. The board wanted to insure it met the Governor's latest COVID-19 mandates for social distancing, masks and gatherings so decided to hold this meeting outdoors. The meeting was much more than standard business as it included several important events.

The board held its meeting at Rassawek Vineyards located just east of Columbia, VA in beautiful Piedmont landscape setting in a very old reassembled barn masterfully done by Joe Liesfeld and his contracting staff. Joe and his staff graciously hosted our first outdoors board meeting with a tour of the property.



Families and relatives of some board members also attended and received a tour of old cabins, a train station, and many relics of the past. We thought it was a great place and one to put on anyone's future travel list.

"Rassawek is a property steeped in local lore

where old buildings and materials from the region—otherwise slated for demolition—are salvaged from the wrecking ball and are relocated, repurposed and rebuilt.

In 2000, the land- a "blank slate" and stunning in its natural beauty- was acquired by a family passionate about preserving the past and motivated to create a retreat unlike any other. They named the property "Rassawek," in honor of the namesake village of the Monacan Indians, believed to be a series of camps that stretched out along the James River from the main hub at Point of Fork where the Rivanna and James Rivers converged nearby, and set to work planting a vineyard and reclaiming structures for the enjoyment of future generations."

The Board felt the meeting was very important to recognize the achievements of several members. COVID-19 virus had caused many postponements in 2020 including VLA's annual conference and Forest Resources Annual meeting. During these meetings loggers are recognized for their high achievements and receive recognition and awards from their peers.



Binky & Guke Tapscott receiving FRA National Loggers Award.

postpone both meetings until 2021 and wanted to insure the two men received

their well – deserved recognition. You can see the full write-up in this issue.

FRA had selected Binky Tapscott and his brother Guke Tapscott for their National Outstanding Logger Award for 2020. They won the FRA Southeastern Region choice and later the national award. Unfortunately, FRA had to



Buck Morris receiving President's Award.

VLA's President always presents an award to a well – deserving individual who exemplifies logging, professionalism, and community. Buck Morris fit the profile and earned the 2020 VLA President's award. Buck has been

active in his business and industry promoting good forestry and business ethics. Bucks' wife Cheryl wrote an inspiring letter about her husband which you can also read in this issue.

VLA's President is appointed by the Board of Directors and serves at their pleasure. Normally the President serves three terms each being two - year duration. Vance Wright just completed his final year as President of the VLA which began at the end of 2014. Vance was recognized for his many accomplishments.

Vance was named the American Loggers Council National Logger Activist in 2018 and received second place for FRA's National Logger of the Year. During Vance's term he and the board were instrumental in getting 90,000 maximum weight limits on Virginia's non-interstate highways; flashing lights authority for log trucks; and forest harvesting equipment added to the state's list of potential exemptions for localities. Vance will now serve as Past President on the board.



Vance Wright receiving award for serving VLA as President.

Frank Myers was approved by the Board of Directors as VLA's next President. Chad Shelton will serve as Vice – President.

Both have served on the VLA board and been very active in the politics and major initiatives supporting all logging businesses. Frank has been the ALC National Logger Activist of the Year in 2015, FRA's National Logger of the Year in 2018, and shared the Hatton-Brown national business award for MM Wright with his brother – in – law in 2016.

Chad has been active in the forest equipment tax exemption for many years and was responsible for making Pittsylvania County the first county to amend their local ordinance exempting all personal property taxes on logging equipment. Chad is also actively involved in all matters of the VLA including state and local issues.

Frank and Chad are looking forward to serving VLA and the industry in the future.



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BUCK MORRIS RECEIVES VLA PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR 2020

Buck Morris, co-owner of Glen Morris & Sons, Inc., received VLA's President's award for achieving exemplary standards in his business, community and the industry. Buck is actively engaged in every aspect of life which was eloquently described in a letter to VLA's President from Buck's wife Cheryl.

Buck was born in Orange County, Virginia and has remained a life-long resident of the county in the Unionville area. His parents are David Glen Morris (deceased 2013) and Rachel Morris who still lives at home in Unionville. Buck has two brothers, Gill and Dean, both live in Unionville as well. Buck's dad taught him the value of hard work and his mother, whom he has always had a close relationship with, always encouraged him to go after his dreams, treat others with kindness, value his family, and work hard! Buck and I, married in May 1996. Although Buck and I do not have children, he loves being "Uncle Buck" to several nieces and nephews.

Buck's dad started Glen Morris and Sons Logging Inc. in 1962. For many years, his dad, two brothers and Buck worked in the logging business together. Currently Buck serves as president of the company; he and Dean now run the logging business together. They have been very fortunate through the many years to have been able to harvest timber locally in Orange, Culpeper, Spotsylvania and Louisa County. They often have had the opportunity to cut timber that his father had previously cut many years before.

As many loggers would probably agree, the timber business can be "challenging" and "trying" at times. However, for Buck, the timber business has been a life-long career. In his earlier work years, he tried out some other jobs, but returned to logging where he has consistently been in the timber business for about 36+ years.

He has proudly been a member of the Virginia Loggers Association (VLA) since the organization began and has served as a board member. He often talks with potential members about the benefits of the VLA as well as all the lasting friendships that he has established over the many years.

As most of you probably know, he has been very passionate about the timber business, the problems and issues regarding timber theft and the solar panels. Late in 2019 Buck wrote an article about solar arrays in which he began the article by asking the reader, "...is it a real good idea to practice de-forestation and covering agricultural (AG) land with solar generators/arrays in the name of green energy?" This article was published in the local newspaper as well as

in the VA Loggers Association magazine. He received so much positive feedback from this article.

Glen Morris and Sons Logging, Inc. was the 2006 and more recently 2019 recipient of the Virginia Forestry Association Logger Merit Award. To quote Adam Downing from the VA Cooperative Extension, "The recipient represents the best-of-the-best exemplifying the highest professional standards as they serve as effective positive public role models for the entire logging industry." Buck was very honored to have been presented with this merit award on two separate occasions.

In December 2019, Buck was invited by the Virginia Department of Education to serve on a business panel; an excerpt of the invitation reads, "... to review instructional frameworks for the Forestry Management and Forestry Management, Advance curricula. Content and workplace experts from across the Commonwealth provide valuable guidance for development of technical programs that prepare students for successful transition to further education and the workforce." Buck participated in the panel in January 2020; this was a great opportunity and real eye-opener for him to learn how educational curriculum is meticulously developed for students as they prepare for their future endeavors.



Reynolds, who passed away several years ago. Tommi was a tremendous influence and encouraged him to continue in the music industry.

Logging isn't the only thing that Buck is interested in. Many of you may know that one of Buck's special interests is music. He is a very talented musician, playing many instruments, his favorites being the guitar, banjo and mandolin, but he can also play steel guitar and dobro...the piano is a challenge but his goal is to learn that as well someday! Buck often speaks of his long-time friend and mentor, Tommi

Continued on page __

Buck's favorite music choices are bluegrass and country music. He enjoys listening to some of his heroes such as Buck Owens (where his nickname "Buck" came from) and Merle Haggard. However, Buck also enjoys other types of music like gospel and the awesome sound of the Eagles! He is also a very talented singer as well! In the past he played lead guitar and sang in a local country band and more recently, played mandolin and sang in a local bluegrass band for years. Currently he does not play in a band, rather he will pick up a guitar or some other instrument at home almost every day.

Another fact that you may not know about Buck is that he is an avid reader; he reads every day! He mainly reads educational type of books such as how things were made or created, politics, nature, and history. He also enjoys reading several magazines like "Cowboys & Indians," "Virginia Wildlife" and of course, the VLA magazine and "Logging Times."

One of Buck's favorite past times when the weather is good is to go riding through the country-side. He has had motorcycles most all his life; now at age 60, he is back to three wheels...yes a trike...but not just any trike, a V-8 Boss Hoss! His trike is absolutely beautiful and he loves the fact that it was made here in the USA... Dyersburg, Tennessee to be exact!

Buck also has a great interest in airplanes! He loves to go to airshows, among his favorites are the military airshows at the naval base in Oceana and Langley Airforce Base. He can tell you about some of the various types of plans used in the military, when they were built and what special features they have. At one time, Buck even took flying lessons at the local airport in Orange and was able to fly solo, he loved it!

This year Buck also participated as a delegate to nominate a candidate for the upcoming election. He rather enjoys following politics on the local, state and federal level.

As you can see, Buck is such a well-rounded, very successful individual! He keeps a strong balance between spending time with me, his family, his career, and his hobbies! If you know him at all, you know that he can talk with you (and he surely loves to talk) on just about any subject...from logging, to music, motorcycles, airplanes, books, solar energy, politics and on and on!

Lastly, his love for his God, his family, his country, and of course the logging industry is truly remarkable and as such, so deserving of this award today!

Thank you for the opportunity to share a little about Buck's life story!

Written by: Cheryl H. Morris

August 2020



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY PORTABLE BRIDGES AVAILABLE FOR LOWER COWPASTURE RIVER WATERSHED

By Chris Thomsen, Regional Forester DOF

Loggers in the Lower Cowpasture River Watershed now have two sets of portable bridges available for their use thanks to the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and funding provided by a U. S. Forest Service Joint Chiefs Grant. This federal grant funds the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project and covers 117,500 acres of public and private lands in Alleghany, Bath, and Rockbridge Counties. The Project area is located in the heart of the Ridge and Valley province of the Central Appalachians and the Upper James River drainage basin of the Chesapeake Bay.

Both bridge sets consist of three 4' x 30' panels and were purchased by VDOF from Long Island Lumber in Campbell County. The bridges will be stored at the WestRock Mill in Covington. They will be loaned out at no cost to loggers working in the targeted watershed area. Loggers wishing to use these bridges will need to obtain a pre-harvest plan recommending bridge use from VDOF and not have any unresolved water quality issues. Contact for obtaining a pre-harvest plan and / or bridge set is Senior Area Forester Patti Nylander at 434-962—8172 or Water Quality Specialist Andrew Vinson at 540-810-0153. VDOF will maintain a check-out list and communicate pick-up with WestRock in Covington.

Use of these bridges by area loggers will help protect the waters of the Commonwealth from excessive sedimentation. It is hoped that loggers unfamiliar with portable bridge use will see the value in using them and consider purchasing a set for their operation. Cost share may be available to assist loggers with the purchase of portable bridges. Additional information is available at www.dof.virginia.gov or by contacting your local VDOF representative.



CELL PHONES: LEADING CAUSE OF TRUCKING ACCIDENTS

FMIC — JIM MCCRANEY

More than ever cell phones are being used by truck drivers than ever before. According to research studies, the use of a cell phone in the trucking industry increases the risk of having an accident four-fold. Another study found that by just having a cell phone in a truck increased the risk of being involved in an accident by 60 percent.

Truck drivers are cautioned not to drive while distracted, but driver distractions are causing many fatal accidents. The truth is that there are many distractions while driving—we are probably all distracted at some point when we really should be focusing on driving. But it is vital that truck drivers provide attention to the road to avoid causing an accident. Need proof?

Recently, a 17-year old young girl was killed when a tractor trailer crashed into the side of her school bus. Although investigators do not believe speed was a factor in the accident, they say the driver of the tractor trailer was talking on the cell phone and did not see that the bus in front of him had stopped. The truck crashed into the bus without the driver ever hitting the brakes. Eight other students and the driver were critically injured.

The truck driver is facing negligent homicide charges and a civil lawsuit has been filed. But worse....the truck driver will live with the memory of having caused an accident that resulted in the loss of a life, forever. The mother who assisted in medical assistance for her children from the burning bus filed a lawsuit against the truck driver, alleging negligence on the truck driver. She had three children on the bus and one daughter died.

Most states do not have laws against talking on the cell phone while driving. However, it is easy to see that talking on a cell phone or yet worse, sending text messages can be a major distraction while driving a tractor trailer. In addition to not paying attention to the road ahead, the driver also loses the full use of one arm while holding the cell phone up to his ear, making controlling the truck a difficult task.



Driver inattention is a growing concern for trucking safety. Controlling a tractor trailer requires full attention to the truck and the road ahead, but drivers can easily be distracted by any number of things, including the CB radios which share at least an equal concern. Driver inattention is being blamed for many accidents. You need to ask yourself; is talking on a cell phone while driving worth that kind of irresponsibility and changing the life of others for a lifetime.

Many truck drivers say they can handle talking on their cell phone, CB radio and drive at the same time, but there is too much going on to pay proper attention to traffic. How can a driver honestly say they can talk on a phone, pay attention to their speed, navigate the road, watch traffic lights, monitor nearby vehicles and watch for unexpected traffic patterns up ahead? It is too much for anyone to do at once and it is especially dangerous if the person is driving a tractor trailer.

Unfortunately, it only takes one accident to end a life. So, while the drivers of tractor trailers involved in the accidents may have learned a lesson about paying attention while driving, those killed in the accidents are gone forever and their families are left to deal with their grief.

Cell phones do not cause a trucking accident
Drivers using a Cell phone can cause an accident

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NEWS AND UPDATES FROM VIRGINIA TECH FOREST OPERATIONS EXTENSION

Scott Barrett, PhD,
Extension Specialist,
Forest Operations

Coordinator for the VA
SHARP Logger Program

VA Tech Department of
Forest Resources &
Environmental
Conservation

SHARP LOGGER ONLINE TRAINING UPDATES

As we continue to figure out the best way to offer SHARP Logger trainings during this period of time when we have COVID-19 restrictions in place, we have made even more of our trainings available online. Many of you may have participated in our earlier safety webinar that was co-hosted by VLA. In the last newsletter I also mentioned that we are now offering the required SHARP Logger update in an online “on demand” format where you can get that required training at any time. Prior to the COVID-19 restrictions placed on us this spring, we had started a core SHARP Logger program in Patrick County. We had to postpone that class and recently finished it up with a “hybrid” training where one of the remaining classes was offered in person and the other one was offered online.

We realize that there are more people that need the core training to become a SHARP logger, and it is going to be difficult to offer the complete core program in person with our current restrictions. So we have decided to offer a completely online core program. We are currently planning to offer this course on October 21, 28, and November 4th. The plan is to offer this as a live webinar format where you will sign in at the scheduled times and will see the presenters in real time and will have the opportunity to interact and ask questions as well. A completely online core program is a new option for us with the SHARP Logger Program so we’ll see how it goes. While I would still prefer to be able to offer the class in person, I am optimistic that this will be a good option for some people. It will allow people to attend the training without having to travel and may enable some people to attend the training that otherwise could not have made it. If you are interested in attending this online core program to become a SHARP Logger, E-mail Karen Snape at sharplogger@vt.edu or call 540-231-6494 to find out more information on registration and times.

Shifting to more online training for the required update class and the core program has been a change for our program. There can be advantages and disadvantages with change. Other changes may be coming to the SHARP Logger program as the national SFI program updates their requirements for logger training programs. Proposed changes to SFI logger training program requirements would take effect in 2022 and most of the proposed changes seem pretty minor. If you are interesting finding out more on the details of the proposed changes you can find out more at <https://www.sfiprogram.org/sfi-standard-revision-process/>. With these proposed changes to logger training requirements we are using it as an opportunity to take a look at our whole training program to make sure we meet the new requirements, but also to see if there are other areas of the program that could be offered in a different format to help improve our program. So, if you have any suggestions for changes you would like to see in our program or want to give us some feedback on our online trainings, we’d like to hear from you.



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UPDATE: LOGGER RELIEF FUNDS

Daniel J. Ductor – Executive Vice President

As of this writing, August 3, 2020, Congress has yet to approve the next stimulus package to provide financial assistance to businesses during these unprecedented financial times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Important to loggers is for Congress to include the Loggers Relief bills (H.R. 7690 and S. 4223) in the next stimulus package. Members of the American Loggers Council are pushing hard to seek a relief package that would help logging and log trucking businesses to cope with loss of markets, quotas and other Coronavirus related issues that are dragging down their businesses.



What began as a request for a low interest loan to assist logging and log trucking businesses during these hard times has morphed into a bill, the Logger Relief Fund, House Resolution 7690 and Senate Bill 4233 that would allow logging and log trucking businesses to compare revenues for the first 7 months of 2020 to those of 2019. If revenues are down by more than 10% in 2020 as compared to 2019, then a logging or log trucking business would be eligible to apply for funds not exceeding more than 10% of the gross business revenues for the period between January 1, 2019 and July 31, 2019. These funds are not intended to make businesses whole, but rather to allow them the opportunity to reorganize as markets around them continue to recover.

The American Loggers Council has secured support from both Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate and are looking to try and push this legislation in the next COVID-19 or CARES-2 Act as soon as this week. Other trade associations are lending their support in these final days of negotiations between the House and the Senate, but we **still need as many of you to e-mail, or call your House and Senate members offices and request that they cosponsor the legislation, this week!** You can go online at www.congress.gov and track both of the bills and also see a list of the cosponsors that have already signed on. If you do not see your Congressman or Congresswoman on the list of cosponsors under H.R. 7690, or your Senators on the list of cosponsors under S. 4233, then you should reach out to their staff immediately and request that they sign on.

Quoting a message recently sent to this office from a former staff member, “The art of the blow-off is highly refined on Capitol Hill.” Do not allow them to simply send you a form letter that has been disguised with a blue ink signature that vaguely mentions your request for them to sign on to the legislation. Let them know that you are one of the folks back home that votes for them and that you are requesting that they represent you as one of their constituents. Be original and be firm.

To quote another mentor in the logging profession and long-time advocate for our industry, Bruce Vincent, “The world is run by those who show up.” Have you shown up yet? Have you taken the time to respond to action alert requests that have gone out over social media sites and web sites? If not, and you wish to see the relief fund move forward, you must do so now.

Thanks to all of you who have already made your voices heard, and thanks in advance to those who will reach out this week to help push this legislation across the finish line.

The American Loggers Council is an 501(c)(6) not for profit trade association representing professional timber harvesters throughout the United States. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council at 409-625-0206, or americanlogger@aol.com, or visit our website at www.amloggers.com.

VLA Commentary: As we know from what we hear and see on the news, our Congress is far apart on agreeing to the total amount needed in the next stimulus package. An important aspect is that we need Congress to agree to include the Loggers Relief bills (H.R. 7690 and S. 4223) in the stimulus package. As of this writing, 19 members of the House of Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of H.R. 7690. In the Senate we have only 6 co-sponsors. Abigail Spanberger representing VA Congressional District 7 is the only Virginia representative to co-sponsor Loggers Relief. We really need your help by calling or writing your representative and asking them to support the Logger Relief bills.



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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

– Hazards of Tree Harvesting–



Virginia Department of Labor and Industry

William Groce CHST
*Lead Safety and Health
Consultant*

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[https://www.doli.virginia.gov/
vosh-programs/consultation/](https://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh-programs/consultation/)

Tree harvesting by manual felling is one of the dangerous occupation according to Bureau of Labor Statistics. The majority of fatal injuries are due to contact with objects or equipment, with 79% of fatal injuries specifically being struck by falling objects in the logging industry. From 2006 – 2015 Virginia total fatal work injuries in the logging industry, was 5.8% third behind Oregon and Tennessee at 7.94%.

Falling object accidents account for nearly a quarter of all logging accidents, which include logs, limbs, and entire trees, and these have the potential to be extremely serious injuries because of the impact from such great heights. These kinds of injuries statistically have required a recovery period of 90 days or longer, generally fall into the worker's compensation area of insurance claim.

Statistic shows preliminary data for the top 10 occupations by fatal work injury deaths per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers in the U.S. in 2018. In 2018, the highest occupational injury death rate was to be found among logging workers with a rate of 97.6 deaths per 100,000 workers.

www.statista.com/statistics/284870/occupational-with-high-fatal-work-injury

How can we reduce fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries?

Tree harvesting standard 1910.266(h)(1)-(3) is one place to start, however that is not the finish line.

The General Requirements of 1910.266(h)(1) Trees shall not be felled in a manner that may create a hazard for an employee, such as but not limited to, striking a rope, cable, power line, or machine.

1910.266(h)(2)(ii) **Before each tree is felled**, conditions such as, but not limited to, snow, and ice accumulation, the wind, the lean of the tree, dead limbs, and the location of other trees, shall be evaluated by the feller and precautions taken so a hazard is not created for an employees.

Recommendations

1) Develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive written safety program that includes safe work procedures for all tasks performed. This safety program should include but not limited to the following elements:

i) Training workers to evaluate the timber felling area so the hazard can be identified and controlled.

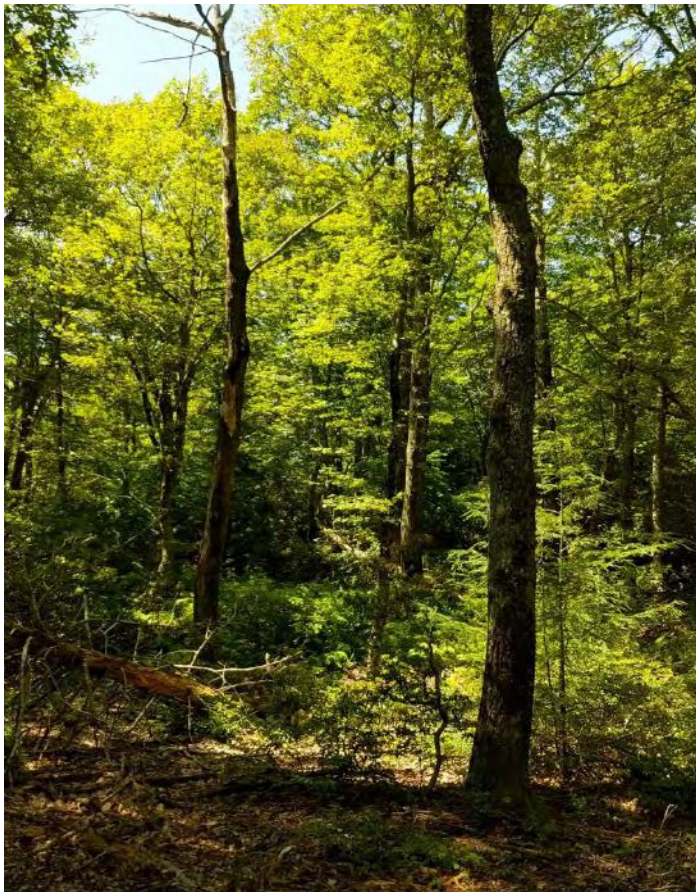
ii) Instructing workers to plan and clear retreat path as necessary before beginning any cuts.

iii) Training workers in proper felling techniques (for example, the proper undercut, back cut and amount of hinge wood to leave). This should include all new employees, even with background in felling. **(The employer is responsible for proper training, this**

includes workers stating past experience)

2) Before beginning work, conduct an initial and daily jobsite survey to identify hazards and implement appropriate controls.

Continued on page __



3) Designate a Competent person to conduct periodic safety inspections to ensure that workers are performing their assigned tasks according to established safe work procedures. Immediately correct any identified hazards or improper work practices.

(Competent person means one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazard in the surrounding, or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has the authorization to take prompt corrective measure to eliminate them.

4) The supervisor's (competent person) overall safety and responsibility is to identify hazards and unsafe worker behaviors and correct them before an accident occurs. There is no more important job than the ensuring the overall safety of the workers.

Site Planning:

- Provide daily safety meetings and site inspections for loose bark, broken limbs, or other damaged trees before felling operations begin.
- Provide first aid supplies; following 1910.266 Appendix A. Additional items could include in the first aid kits: tourniquet and Blood Stop hemostatic Gauze. (Additional training in First Aid and/or Stop the Bleed program for tourniquets and hemostatic gauze)

<https://www.stopthebleed.org>

- Do not work under a tree that is lodged against another tree. Before work begins in the area, fell or remove the tree using mechanical means or other techniques that minimize worker exposure.
- Arrange the location and activities of workers so distance between workers is at least twice the height of the trees being cut. The distance between adjacent occupied work areas shall reflect the degree of slope, the density of the growth, the height of the soil structure and other hazards reasonable anticipated at the work site. A distance of greater than two tree lengths shall be maintained between adjacent occupied work areas on any slope where rolling or sliding of trees or logs is reasonably foreseeable.
- While manual felling is in progress, no yarding machine shall be operated within two lengths of trees being manually felled.
- Each employee in the immediate work area in the forest shall work in a position or location that is within visual or audible contact with another employee. Motor noise is not an acceptable signal.

For more information on felling accidents Case File Investigation and the lessons learned, you can visit NIOSH website at:

C:\Users\vse43854\Documents\Logging\CDC - NIOSH Publications and Products - Preventing Injuries and Deaths of Loggers (95-101).html

<https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/topics/forest-activities.aspx>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/logging/logsafe.html>

Sources: OSHA.gov/ Oregon OSHA forest/cdc.gov/NIOSH

Additional assistance please contact William Groce at william.groce@doli.virginia.gov

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SETLIFF'S LAW



Are you ready?

I was recently on a road trip with my family, within an hour of our target destination on one of this country's major interstates. We had been in the car for hours, the terrain was flat, the summer sun blazed through the windows, and the states had passed by. As a truck lawyer, I spent much of the drive watching logos pass by the windshield – current clients, former clients, great white whales of the trucking industry. My husband and I observed trucker behaviors and rather than comment on my husband's driving, I was constantly shouting things like "He's coming over – give him space!" "He's going too fast – he needs four football fields to stop!" "It's not a question of if he's getting in a wreck, it's a question of when! Watch him brake!" I lectured my car's occupants on the finer points of accident reconstruction and dash cam videos. Why the truck stops were getting busy at 4 p.m. And then, as I gazed out the window on the eastbound side, I saw a tractor-trailer stopped in the slow lane, a small SUV tangled in the median wire. Traffic was at a standstill behind them. Flashing lights surrounded the vehicles – both of them unmoving, and obviously unable. As we drove past, I verbally triaged with the practiced eye of a defense lawyer – two vehicles. Police. Ambulance. Tow already present. Damage to the median wire. Tractor-trailer disabled. No sign of the occupants. This was not good. I checked the company, googled them quickly. And I made the call. "Safety department please." When I spoke to the safety responder on duty, the driver had not yet reported the accident. Perhaps he or she was injured and could not. Perhaps he or she was so shaken up it was not possible. Or perhaps he or she didn't want to get in trouble. Or, perhaps he or she had, but the information had not yet made its way to the safety department.

We can preach the importance of initial reporting and rapid response until we are blue in the face. We can pass out instruction cards and sign orientation accident procedure acknowledgments. But until protocol is followed, insurance premiums will keep rising and risk and safety personnel won't have the opportunity to manage the situation from the get go. So often I hear "we really learned from this situation." Please learn before it costs. Before it hurts. Like a coach who teaches players to execute a play, to prepare a response for a possible attack, teach drivers to execute a response to emergency preparedness.

At a minimum, practice these steps after an accident:

1. Drivers report incident to dispatch or safety and safety/risk gets the information.

2. Contact is made with driver to ensure he/she is a) uninjured and b) mentally/emotionally ok. Once driver's condition is established, collect initial details of loss. Determine who/what/where/when. Take notes. Tell driver to either call police or wait until police arrive. It is always recommended to wait until a police report is made regardless if the other party leaves. This allows any property damage to be documented and any injury or lack of injury to be documented. Yes, it slows the driver down, but it also preserves information in the long run and can assist with any subrogation or defense efforts.

3. Always ask the driver if there has been a tow, a transport, or a ticket. If so, send for drug/alcohol testing.

4. Always ask the driver to take photographs. Pictures should be of any damage and should also include the scene, if possible, and all involved vehicles.

5. If safety/risk gets the sense this is a significant accident, assess for further involvement of other parties. For instance, if equipment is in the ditch, assess if you want your tow equipment there (if in range) and immediately convey that information to the local authorities. Assessing any tow issues early and communicating with local authorities regarding the plan can save money on future tow expenses. If you want to choose your tow company, immediately convey that information to the local authorities. If there is significant bodily injury, assess if you need to contact a third party administrator and get an independent adjuster on the scene. Keep in mind, depending on the severity of the accident, you may have to push to get someone on the scene within a couple of hours versus a couple of days. Timing matters.

6. Is your driver stranded? Assess logistics and who you have in the area or if you need an Uber to a rest stop.

7. What about your cargo? Is it damaged? Make sure to contact all parties and notify delivery will be delayed. Do you need a replacement truck? Are you in range that you can send a spare trailer? Do you even have authority to break the seal? Is it a refrigerated load? Make sure this is handled and communicated promptly so as to mitigate a cargo claim.

8. Do you need an accident reconstructionist on the scene? Is there liquid or other debris that needs to be captured or preserved? Skid marks? Yaw marks? Anything that needs to be documented or measured? Does the ECM data need to be downloaded to preserve? Depending on the engine, data could be lost if the truck is turned on or moved or another hard brake event occurs. Know what equipment you have, what you need, and how to protect it.

Continued on page __



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These are just some of the in-the-moment considerations that a significant accident can bring. Depending on the facts of the loss, other factors may also be in play – for instance – what happens if the driver is taken into custody? The bottom line is to make sure you have a game plan, everyone in the organization is informed, and you are prepared. Prior preparation prevents poor performance, particularly in emergency situations.



Ms. Tracy

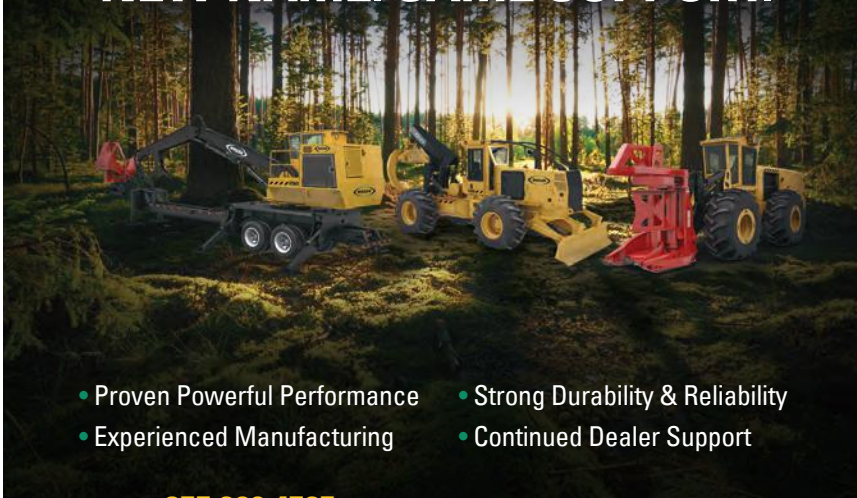


Mr. Setliff

For questions, comments, or assistance with rapid response or accident preparedness, please feel free to contact Amy Tracy (atracy@setlifflaw.com) at 804-377-1264 or Steve Setliff (ssetliff@setlifflaw.com) at 804-377-1261. Mr. Setliff and Ms. Tracy are also available to meet with safety professionals and drivers to discuss what to do – and what not to do – post crash.



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LET'S GET TO WORK.

INCLUSION ON EXPORTS

By: Caitlin Clark

United States export data for January-June was released in early August, and while our Virginia exports were down across the board, the reduction was not as dramatic as one might've expected given the coronavirus pandemic. As a matter of fact, Virginia lumber exports, which in the first half of 2020 accounted for about 69% of all state forest products exports, fared better than overall U.S. exports - U.S. lumber exports fell almost 16% from 1.51 billion to 1.27 billion, while Virginia lumber exports fell just 6% from \$85 million to \$79.8 million.

Contrastingly, Virginia log exports, which in the first half of 2020 accounted for about 20% of state forest products exports, did slightly worse than overall U.S. log exports. U.S. log exports fell more than 11% from \$967 million to \$855 million from January to June, and Virginia log exports fell more than 13% from \$26.6 million to \$23 million. Notably, while pine log exports are a relatively small portion of Virginia log shipments, exports of pine with dimension of 15cm and larger to Vietnam and Pakistan increased 180% and 248%, respectively. This reflects export growth to these countries from the U.S., more broadly, while larger pine export markets, China and Canada, greatly reduced their imports of U.S. pine.

U.S. Exports of HS 440321, Wood In The Rough Of Pine, Of Which Any Cross Section Dimension Is 15Cm Or More

Partner Country	Year To Date: January - June		%Δ 20/19
	2019	2020	
World	\$ 106,218,502	\$ 79,452,411	-25.2
China	\$ 73,868,528	\$ 49,962,880	-32.36
Canada	\$ 20,305,002	\$ 12,585,646	-38.02
Vietnam	\$ 3,239,412	\$ 5,564,622	71.78
Pakistan	\$ 1,777,137	\$ 2,721,847	53.16

These emerging pine markets of Vietnam and Pakistan are particularly appealing for Virginia exports because they do not require pest treatment such as fumigation, which can price Virginia pine logs out of other markets where such treatment is required. Our VDACS Southeast Asia trade representative office completed in July the first phase of an extended effort to reach potential importers in Vietnam of Virginia pine logs. They identified a number of buyers that expressed interest in connecting with Virginia pine suppliers, and we are now moving into the second phase of this effort, which is to connect these buyers with Virginia suppliers.

In other forest products export promotion news, wood and furniture manufacturing trade shows are beginning to return in various forms.



VDACS hosted a Virginia Forest Products booth at the virtual edition of the Dubai WoodShow that took place September 7-9 to interact with potential buyers in the Middle East region. In China, where efforts to contain the pandemic have been more successful and business activity has more or less returned to normal, the VDACS China trade representatives attended the Furniture Manufacturing & Supply China (FMC China) Show, September 8-12 in Shanghai. Both of these efforts returned a number of hardwood lumber leads to be distributed to Virginia forest products exporters.

If you have interest in exporting lumber, logs, or other forest products to foreign markets, please do not hesitate to contact Caitlin Clark at the VDACS Office of International Marketing at Caitlin.clark@vdacs.virginia.gov

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REAL ASSET UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 2020 **BANK OF AMERICA** 

OVERVIEW

As we continue to face a high degree of economic uncertainty, we want to help you understand the changing markets and emerging trends. This report is a monthly supplement to the Specialty Asset Management Outlook Report that provides timely insights on agriculture, timberland, commercial real estate and energy.

These real assets can be an essential element in a well-managed investment portfolio and may provide an opportunity for long-term total returns, inflation protection and offset the volatility of equity and fixed-income investments.

The Specialty Asset Management Team can assist with ongoing management of real assets including the implementation of actions that may enhance cash flow and future sale value. The team can also provide comprehensive direct investment strategies, which include the identification, acquisition and management of timberland, farms and commercial real estate.



TIMBERLAND

- Timber markets in each of the three major wood basins in the U.S. dropped sharply in the Q2, due to mill closures (pandemic lockdowns) and uncertainty in the markets.
- Lumber prices on the other hand showed strength in the Q2, as repair and remodel activity increased with owners staying at home, renovations to add/improve home offices, and continued housing demand driving lumber prices.
- Timber prices are expected to lag lumber prices as markets continue to contend with legacy inventory overhang from the 2009 housing crisis. As lumber demand absorbs timber supply, timber prices may normalize. Pre-pandemic, we were observing some normalization of timber prices in certain micro-markets, an indicator that higher prices may be appearing post pandemic.
- There are continuing signs that pandemic concerns and urban unrest is creating a resurgence of interest in suburban and exurban living, combined with the positive results of work from home protocols for some professions, and the emergence of Millennial home buyers, all suggest that housing construction may be positively impacted.
- After a notable drop in timberland transaction volume post pandemic, we are observing increased transaction volume as sellers and buyers return to the markets with less of an expectation wedge in the equation. While not a “hot” market, there are opportunities for attractive investments.
- Investor concerns over securities volatility and inflation fears are creating renewed interest in timberland investments. We are being engaged by new investors as well as a number of existing clients electing to add to their exposure to timberland.
- Investors should continue to treat timberland as a long term appreciation/preservation asset class that can help dampen volatility, lower risks, hedge against inflation, provide complementary or ancillary returns, and offer inter-generational wealth planning options.



Continued on page __

FARMLAND

- Crop conditions are generally good to excellent and large crops of corn and soybeans are expected in 2020.
- While China is still short on meeting its Phase 1 commitment, grain sales have picked up in recent weeks along with the sale of 1.937 tonnes of U.S. corn. The sale was one of the largest purchases in half a century according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Moderate increases to deal flow are anticipated as the potential lower for longer outlook has producers thinking about retirement sales and sellers that have been holding out for better commodity prices decide to sell.
- Pace of the financial relief to the U.S. farm economy through the \$16-billion coronavirus (COVID-19) aid package from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for U.S. farmers and livestock producers has slowed down. Through the end of July only \$6.6 billion had been paid out leaving 60% of the funds unspent.
- We do not currently see a significant risk to farmland values from commodity price pressure related to the COVID-19 outbreak. The biggest risk to land values continues to be from a significant increase in the supply of land for sale and a lack of buyers for the increased supply.
- Overall, the agricultural economy continues to be in adequate financial shape although there will continue to be individual and regional concerns that surface.



ENERGY

- Oil demand recovery is losing some steam as travel indicators showing to have stalled and concerns for potential COVID-19 resurgence is debated. U.S. Energy Information Administration reports U.S. oil demand expected to remain below the 2019 average from before COVID-crisis until August 2021.
- OPEC+ production cuts of 9.7MBPD through July will be reduced in August to 7.7MBPD.
- The EIA expects Brent and WTI prices to average \$41 per barrel and \$38 per barrel, respectively, for this year.
- As stated, oil prices should recover when global growth picks up, and that depends heavily on the evolution of COVID-19. The speed of the rebound will be reflected in oil prices.
- The long term oil demand numbers are uncertain, but will be a function of how extensive the results of COVID-19 related changes in behavior. More “work-from-home”, online shopping and virtual meetings instead of business travel means less oil demand in the future.
- With increase in demand and prices, operators that have been curbing production or shutting wells are evaluating turning production back on.



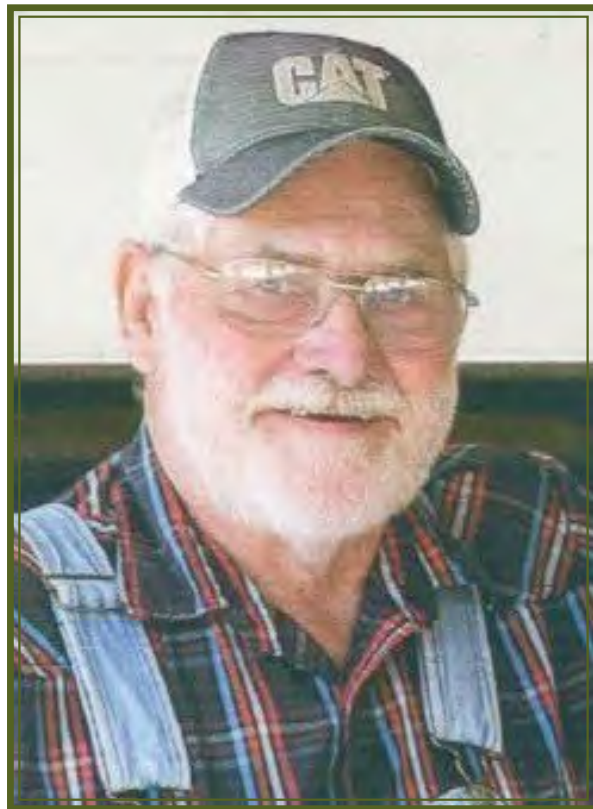
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In Memoriam

Mr. C. Harlowe Bowling, age 81 of Ridgeway, Virginia passed away at his home on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. He was born in Stuart, Virginia on June 5, 1939 to the late Chester Kyle Bowling and Vivian Turner Bowling. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Gordon Kyle Bowling. Harlowe was a member of Sycamore Baptist Church since childhood and a graduate of the Woolwine High School Class of 1958. He was a lifetime logger and devoted his life to the logging industry. Harlowe was the founder of Bowling Logging which has spanned for three generations. He had a love for collecting antique cars and loved spending time with friends when they came to see his cars. Harlowe was a hard worker who loved his family, flowers and enjoyed music. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Those left to cherish his memory are his loving partner of 18 years and the love of his life, Jeannie Thomas of the home; one son, Tim Bowling and wife, Diana of Ridgeway, Virginia; two grandchildren, Matt Bowling and wife, Lauren and Grace Bowling; one great grandson, Easton Matthew Bowling; one sister, Freeda Shelton and husband, Odell of Ridgeway, Virginia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be held Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at Moody Funeral Home in Stuart with Pastor Sandy Wright and Rev. Gerald Melton officiating. Interment will be held in the Woolwine Cemetery. Mr. Bowling will lie in state on Friday, September 4, 2020 from 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Sycamore Baptist Church, C/o Nancy Midkiff, Treasurer, 171 Sycamore Church Lane, Stuart, VA 24171. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.moodyfuneralservices.com



Jacob Clifton Sisk, 44, of Leon, Va. passed away on Monday, September 21, 2020 from a logging accident. He was born on September 27, 1975 to Johnny Lee Sisk and Janet Marie Jenkins Sisk.

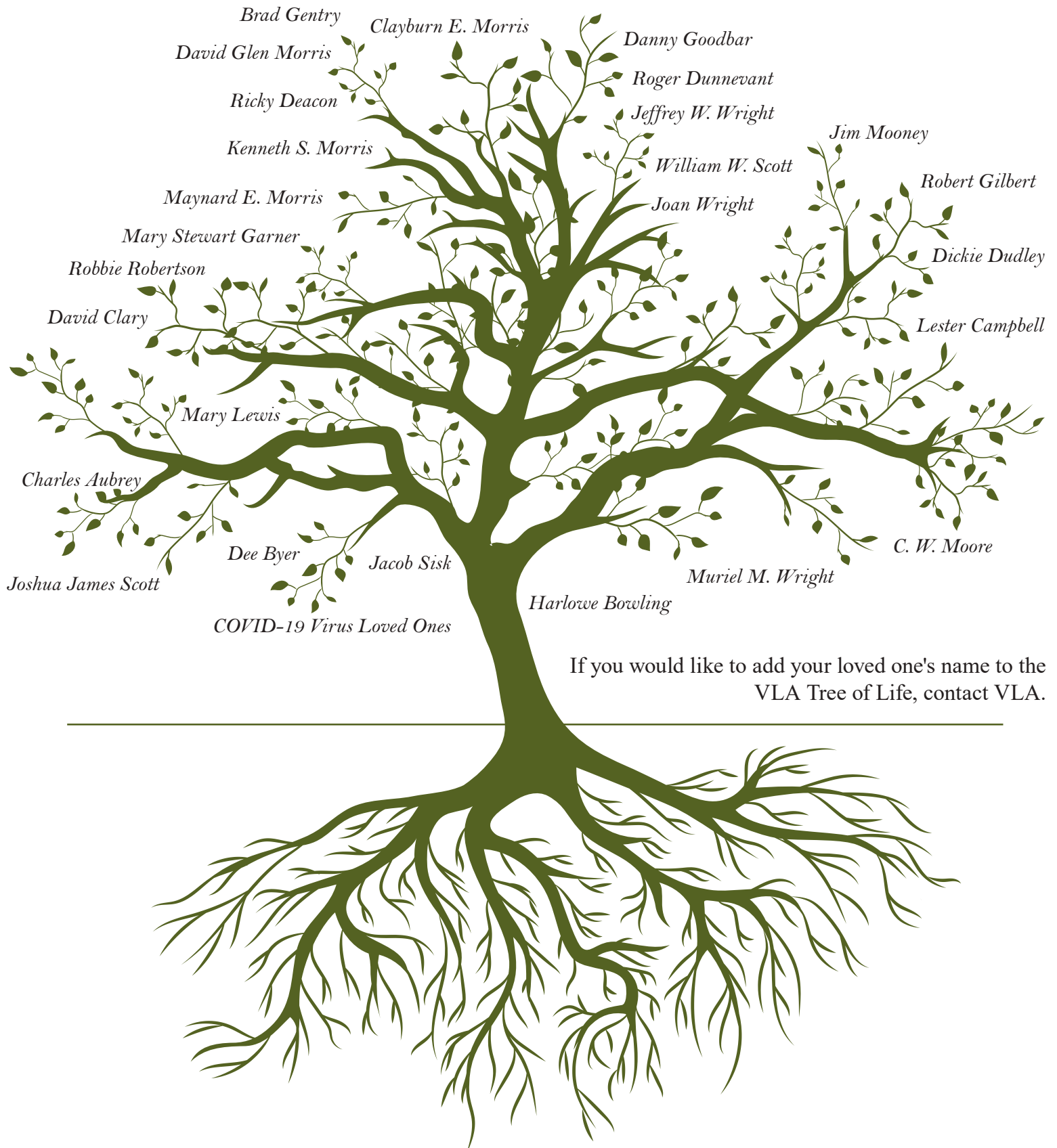
Jacob was a deacon and member of Thoroughfare Bible Church. He loved God and his family. Jacob enjoyed cutting timber, hunting, and riding horses with family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Mandy Shairee Rankin Sisk; son, Daniel Emery Sisk; three daughters, Ashley Marie Sisk, Lindsey Elizabeth Sisk, and Emily Brooklyn Sisk; brother, Virgil Sisk and wife Vickie; Mandy's parents, Fred and Belinda Rankin; brother-in-law, Marq Rankin and wife Nicole; nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 26, 2020 at Thoroughfare Bible Church, Leon, Va. with Pastor Neal Warner officiating. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday, September 25, 2020 at Preddy Funeral Home in Madison.

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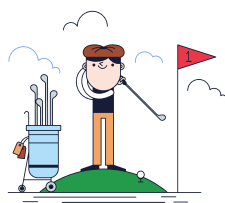
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LOG-A-LOAD FOR KIDS



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**Children's
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Helping Local Kids

**ANNUAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 16TH**

When: Friday, October 16, 2020

Where: Lake Chesdin Golf Club, 21801 Lake Chesdin Parkway, Chesterfield, VA 23838

Time: 10:30 am—Check-in; 11:00am—Lunch; 11:30am—Shotgun Start

Event Details: Participation includes cart and greens fees, snacks/beverages, lunch & dinner; awards given to 1st and 2nd place teams, one closest to the pin and one longest drive contests; 50/50 raffle and door prizes; prize for best golfing outfit (old or new)

Cost per Team of 4: \$320 (includes one mulligan per player)

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

GOLD \$1,000

Includes:
2 teams, signage at event, recognition during announcements, recognition in carts

SILVER \$500

Includes:
1 team, signage at event, recognition during announcements

BRONZE \$250

Includes:
signage at event

TEE \$100

Includes:
signage on one hole during event

Event Registration:

For event registration and payment, and sponsorship opportunities, please either complete the form on the backside of this sheet (be sure to retain a copy for your records) and return Registration form to Nikki Robertson, 9318 West Oak River Drive, S.Chesterfield, VA 23803 no later than Friday, October 9, 2020. You may mail Payments with form or you pay at registration time.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE EVENT , SPONSORSHIP AND TEAMS? CONTACT EVENT CHAIRS:

Nikki Robertson—804.586.5413/robbienikki@aol.com;

Chris Harris—804.370.2305/ wood4pinecrest@gmail.com;

Ervin Bielmyer—434.391.4890/ervin.bielmyer@gmail.com;

Drew Cockram-757.707.4737/drew@easternvirginia tree.com

QUESTIONS RELATED TO PAYMENT OR ONLINE REGISTRATION?

Contact Nikki Robertson—804.586.5413/robbienikki@aol.com

Log A Load For Kids is an organization formed by forestry leaders and community members who wish to raise funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Net proceeds raised in Central Virginia support the advancement of health care services and programs at Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU.



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

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



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