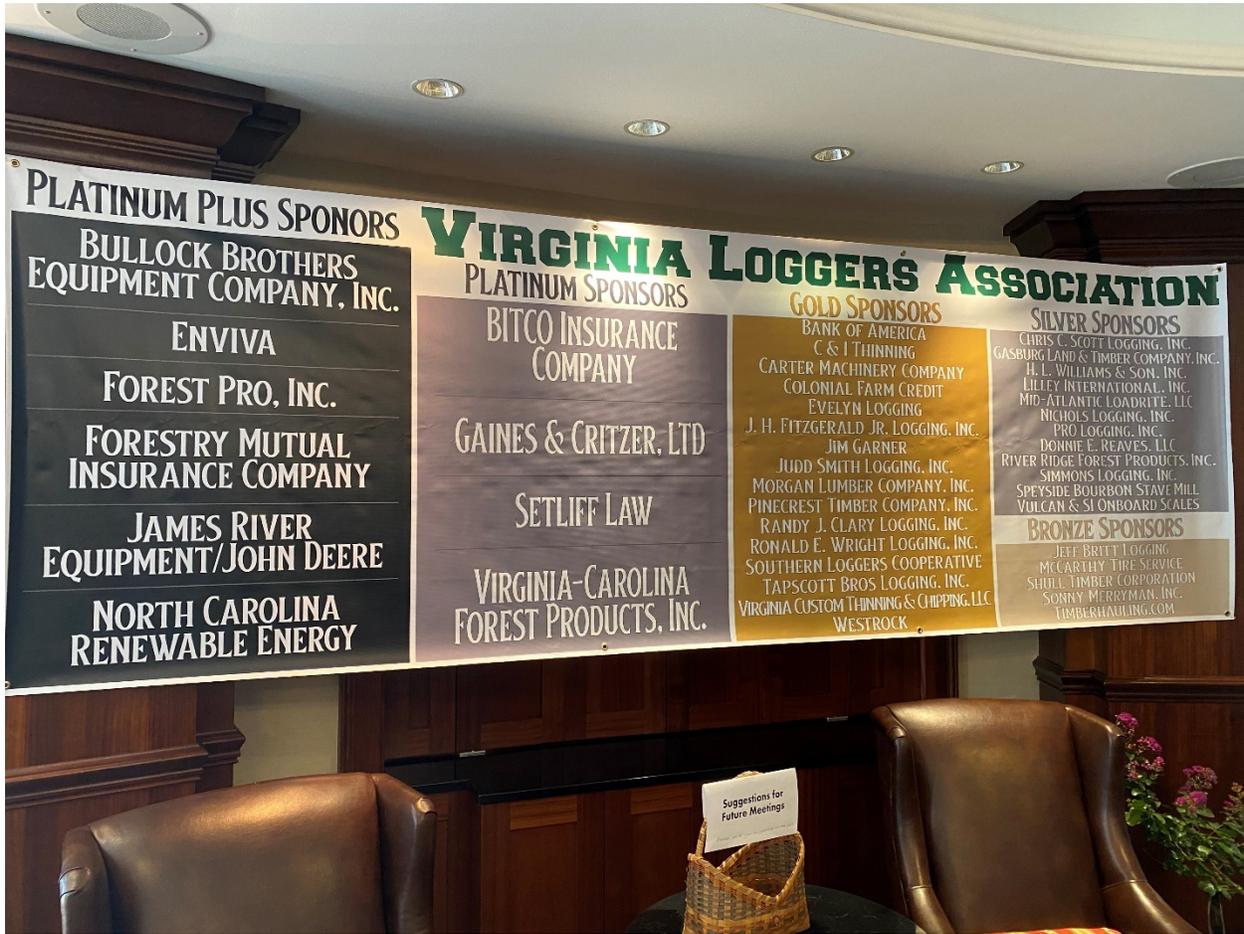


Gone but Never Forgotten

VLA held its 18th annual conference meeting at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center on August 6 & 7. By almost every account this was a great event and possibly even VLA's very best annual gathering of people from all walks of life.

Sponsors gave the most ever to ensure VLA's annual meeting was a huge success. VLA is grateful!



Most VLA Sponsors are Listed on this 14' Banner Except Those Who Sponsored after Banner Creation

More loggers joined the meeting, as did wood products mill representatives, equipment reps, attorneys, businesspeople, services, insurance, banking, legislators, persons running for office, and so many more came to enjoy the festivities.

Twenty exhibitors graced our meetings with the coolest and latest in products, services, and technology. Forty-eight sponsors gave generously to ensure the event would be huge success and it was!

Many generously gave items to the auction which raised record level funds for Log A Load for Kids and the VLA. Bidders left Saturday evening with some great items like hand-made wooden captain chairs, a rocking chair, a paid stay at the OMNI Homestead, a bird hunt at Orapax, a real white oak bourbon barrel, and more. Nicely's Auction conducted an amazing live auction that brought excitement and laughter.

Brian Hambrick and Amanda Church rocked out the house to midnight with awesome music while dancers let go and made it a great time. Thanks for being so patient with us to get the fun started!

We recognized several with birthdays during the event. Mazie & Kenny Rowe and Ronnie Wright led off the tune wishing Christina, Chad, and Scott a very happy birthday!



This year marked some very important events two of which were a first. Forestry Mutual Insurance and Keith Biggs were recognized for fifty years of continuous superior service the forest industry. VLA handed Keith a hand-made plaque with engravings on red cedar to recognize the milestone. The plaque was engraved with the many symbols that represented forest harvesting and the things insured by Forestry Mutual Insurance.

Ed Zimmer, Deputy State Forester, recognized VLA for its support to Virginia's Reforestation of Timberlands (RT) program and its fifty years of providing reforestation incentives to Virginia's landowners. The RT program was created in Virginia legislation and supported by the forest industry and Virginia lawmakers to provide financial incentives to private forest landowners to reforest their forest sites following harvesting and thus ensuring sustainable forest resources for future generations.



VLA recognized the first recipient of the VLA Supporter of the Year Award in 2021. Former State Forester and VLA Honorary Member James Garner was awarded a hand-made wooden plaque to honor his lifetime achievements and solid dedicated support to VLA. This award will be given a non-logger who has demonstrated extraordinary support to VLA. Jim's family also attended to help make the evening a very special one.

Frank Myers, VLA President, recognized Chad Shelton as the recipient of the President's Award. This award is given by VLA to a logger who has demonstrated extraordinary efforts to support the entire logging sector and the forest products industry. Chad led the way to achieve a state law that recognized forest harvesting equipment as farm machinery, adding it to Virginia Tax Code as an option for



local jurisdictions to completely exempt from personal property and machinery & tools taxes.
Congratulations Chad!



Gene Brumett hand-crafted many of the speaker and sponsor gifts of appreciation! Gene is amazing and VLA is grateful for his talent and support. Gene used only wood from Virginia trees to make his creations!

Finally, we are very happy to thank everyone who attended any event, or helped us in anyway, sponsored the meeting, exhibited, and spoke a kind word about the meeting to us. You can truly make a difference in future meetings by letting us know about any specific areas to stick with or improve. Don't hesitate to send an email, text, or call with your ideas.

Thank You for the Success!